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Comics INTERNATIONAL

Issue 28 January 1993 edition | The Comics Industry Monthly | 72 pages 50p / $1.50

Marvel's UNICEF benefit book breaks investment record

Trial of Venom: up 900% in ten days

IN A SPECIAL campaign running until December 31, 1992, the United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF - offered copies of *Spider-Man: The Trial of Venom* in exchange for $5.00 donations.

Within ten days of the offer closing, this unique card-covered embossed comic with a silver logo has been selling in the UK at an average of £30 a copy, with prices as high as £40 at marts and in comic shops.

The US response was described by a UNICEF spokesman as "overwhelming". But despite it being widely

The return of Superman - the official story: page 3

advertised in UK distributed Marvel titles, British fans have been unable to obtain copies of the comic for $5.00 because of the offer's USA-only mailing address clause.

Previous UK price-topper **Spider-Man: The Platinum Edition** also had restricted distribution, with one copy only to each established retailer. This resulted in a selling price of £60 within three months, peaking at £600 within the year.

As investors await the release and anticipate the price hike on DC's **Superman 75 Platinum Edition** - also a one-per-retailer limited edition, the Peter David and Jim Craig created *Trial of Venom* is set to be an item of major speculation for months to come.

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NEWS america

Spider-Man domination

ALREADY the most valuable Marvel series, the Spider-Man titles look set to push the company's X-Men books into second place with the release of new titles, trade paperbacks, guest appearances and the 14-part *Maximum Carnage* story arc beginning in April.

No less than *nine* Spider-Man titles plus two Venom titles and two guest appearance comics are shipping in March, meaning the completist Spidey fan will have to save up $46.05 (roughly £30) just to buy one month's titles.

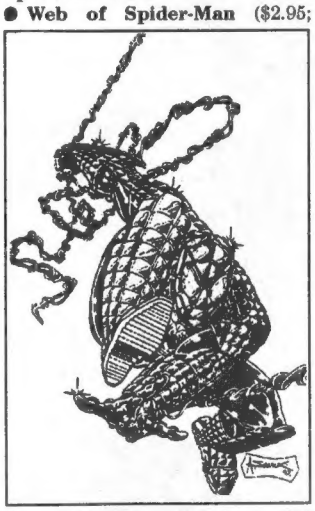
The ever-besieged comics retailers are already anticipating an inevitable drop in back issue **Spider-Man** sales in March as the riskier low-profit new releases tie up consumer spend.

Shipping March 2:

● **Amazing Spider-Man Annual 27** ($2.95; Jack C Harris and Tom **(Robin)** Lyle) introduces new villain Makeshift. Polybagged with a Makeshift *rookie* trading card.

● **Spider-Man Classics 2** ($1.25) reprints Lee & Ditko's **Amazing Spider-Man 1.**

● **Web of Spider-Man** ($2.95;



Kavanagh & Suviak) celebrates 100 issues with a 48 page conclusion to the Bloodrose/Richard Fisk saga and features the debut of the special Spider Armor.

Shipping March 9:

● **Amazing Spider-Man 377** ($1.25; Michelinie & J Johnson) reveals the connection between Cardiac and the evil Styx & Stone

● **Wild Thing 2** (UK; $1.75; Jowett & Mighton) features virtual reality versions of Venom and Spider-Man.

Shipping March 16:

● **Marvel Tales 273** ($1.25; DeFalco & Frenz) reprints **Amazing Spider-Man 259.**

● **New Warriors Annual 3** ($2.95; Nicieza & Robertson) guest stars Spidey, Archangel, Cloak & Dagger and Darkhawk. Polybagged, the book introduces new villain Void, together with rookie trading card.

● **Spider-Man 34** ($1.75; S Grant & McLeod) The Punisher and Spider-Man take on the Master of Vengeance.

Shipping March 23:

● **Spectacular Spider-Man** celebrates 200 issues with a death (?), a showdown (Green Goblin) and a holo-grafx web pattern cover. $2.95, by DeMatteis & Sal Buscema.

● **Spider-Man: Venom Returns** trade paperback ($12.95; Michelinie & Larson) Compilation of **Amazing Spider-Man 331-333, 344-347.**

● **Venom-Deathtrap: The Vault** (64pgs; $6.95; Fingeroth & Lim) Comicbook-sized version of last year's graphic novel with Venom's name added to title of a multi-character story to boost sales.

Shipping March 30:

● **Spider-Man Unlimited 1** ($3.95; DeFalco & Lim; quarterly) Begins the 14-part crossover with the birth of the "new" Carnage which then continues into the May, June and July issues of the regular **Spider-Man, Amazing Spider-Man, Spectacular** and **Web of Spider-Man** before concluding ih **Spider-Man Unlimited 2.**

● **Venom 4** ($2.95; Michelinie & Bagley) Spider-Man and Venom take on a new *female* killer symbiote.

The only consolation for Spidey-fans is that the total X-appearances for March add up to almost £35.

New readers: begin here

Comics International *is a monthly industry trade newspaper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of forthcoming UK and US comics and related items.*

Certain products mentioned are not available through regular newsstand outlets, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist retailers and mail order companies. In our news section, these comics are noted. Details of specialist outlets are advertised throughout the magazine, and a listing of the major specialist shops in Britain is given in our Retail Index.

Shipping dates *mentioned for North American titles are the dates copies leave their printers to be air-freighted to distributors for direct sale outlets approximately one week later. These dates and titles do not relate to newsstand on sale dates or titles.*

The Marvel and DC titles on general national distribution are on sale in the UK approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with 'advance imports'. Because of the additional shipping costs incurred, these copies will be sold at a higher price than the UK price printed on their covers.

American dollar prices *are listed for US titles with most UK comic shops converting at the rate of 80p = $1.*

For full details concerning advertisers displaying the ***CoBRA Mail Order Protection*** *symbol, see page 78.*

The return of Superman

OVER the Christmas to New Year period, both the UK and US news media seized on the *return* of Superman story with similar fervour to their coverage of his death only weeks earlier.

A wired story originating from Capital City Distribution was featured in the national US & UK press stating that Superman would return as four different ethnic characters. Amid DC denials, Superman line editor Mike Carlin appeared on the January 11 **Entertainment Tonight** tv show to set the record straight.

"What we see at the end of this issue," he said, referring to the April 14 shipping **Adventures of Superman 500**, "are four people who claim to be Superman, and we don't know if any of them are ...yet."

Each reflecting an aspect of the Man of Steel, Carlin elaborated that the four would be a super-powered teenager, a steel worker, a determined warrior and a cyborg from space. "They all seem to have bits and pieces of what Superman was all about. And the mystery is which of these guys is the real McCoy."

In answer to the question about whether Superman will ever marry Lois Lane, Carlin said of the five issue story arc, "Hopefully, we will be able to sort out all of the answers. Everything will be resolved in the end."

The Soul of Superman

A SOURCE within DC told **Comics International** more of the story:

Entitled *The Reign of Superman*, the five issues begin with **Adventures of Superman 500**, carry over into the other three Superman titles for April, and conclude in **Adventures 501**.

Superman's foster father, Pa Kent, falls into a deep coma during which time his soul meets that of Superman in a dimension between life and death.

Apparently the Man of Steel's body did die, but not his soul. Though disembodied, he struggles to save Pa Kent's soul, which leads to Superman's return to Earth in a new body.

Lobo returns in April one-shot

LOBO: Portrait of a Victim is a $1.75 32pg new format DC one-shot shipping March 30th.

Regular Lobo co-author Alan Grant is joined by penciller Val Semeiks, reuniting the team who last worked on Lobo in recent **Demon** issues. Inker of **Demon Annual 1** John Dell & cover artist Glenn **(Hellblazer)** Fabry complete the creative line-up.

The story, in this the first issue without the "suggested for mature readers" label, tells the now-familiar story of Lobo going on a rampage and an innocent bystander ending up in hospital.

Not an unusual event (except for the bystander's survival) if told from Lobo's stand-point, but this one-shot is seen through the eyes of the unfortunate bystander who, after a typically bad day in the office, goes for an after-work drink - to the same sleezy bar where Lobo is meeting his date.

What follows is described by DC as "a healthy dose of Lobo-style fraggin' fun - ultra-violent and extra-raucous". Lobo's date is also threatened to be "a sight to behold".

Starlin completes trilogy with The Infinity Crusade

MARVEL has two titles produced by Jim Starlin and Ron Lim set to ship this April.

A 128 page trade paperback, **Rebirth of Thanos**, reprints **Silver Surfer 34-38** featuring the Surfer's first encounter with Thanos packaged in a $12.95 volume shipping on April 13.

Two weeks later the third part of Starlin's *Infinity* trilogy begins as the $3.50 48 page **Infinity Crusade** is launched.

While Warlock's evil side, the Magus, was the source of trouble in **Infinity Gauntlet**, the universe must now deal with his good side - The Goddess.

Behind a cover (above) featuring gold foil beams radiating from the Goddess, the first of six issues tells of how she uses the cosmic cubes to enlist the help of over 30 heroes to rid Earth of all evil, including the killing of heroes she deems unworthy.

*JOE Kubert's classic self-published prehistoric hero **Tor**, last seen in a 1975 6-issue DC reprint series, returns in an all-new 4-issue series courtesy of Marvel's Epic imprint this May. While the 1975 series is generally available in back issues priced between only 50p and £1, Marvel is producing the new series in a slick magazine format. Despite the slim page count of 32, Marvel may have recognised the title has only a small but dedicated audience: the April 27 shipping title has a $5.95 cover price.*

IN BRIEF

Topping Up

TOPPS Comics, recently launched on the back of a Roy Thomas and Mike Mignola 3-issue adaptation of Coppola's new **Dracula** movie, is expanding its line. Set for February launch are:

- **Dracula: Vlad the Impaler.** A 3-issue mini by Roy Thomas and Estaban Maroto (pictured) telling

the an allegedly true story of the Christian hero-king of Romania.
- **Ray Bradbury Comics.** Echoing the 1950s, with work by Stout, Corben and an EC reprint by Williamson.

In March, the 4-issue **Dracula** mini is being released as a 136 page colour album with an introduction by Francis Ford Coppola and new cover art by Mike Mignola.

Being a division of Topps Trading Cards, all the Topps comics will be polybagged and include free cards.

Amazing Recovery

The recently cancelled Fantagraphics title **Amazing Heroes** is to make a compromising comeback in March with **Amazing Heroes Swimsuit Special #4.**

Published by Friendly Comics, which may or may not be owned by Fantagraphics (who also publish under the Eros and Monster Comics imprints), the part colour 48 page $3.95 issue features pin-up art by Adan Hughes (cover), Brian Stelfreeze, Mike Bair and Colleen Doran among others.

Youngblood: Take 3

WHILE the publishing schedule and reaction to Rob Liefeld's **Youngblood** has been stormy, the erratic title has now spawned two companion titles. **Youngblood; Battlezone** should be in shops now, while the 4-issue **Youngblood: Strike File** is set for a March release.

The new title will feature art by **Namor's** Jae Lee and **Legion's** Jason Pearson and feature two stories focusing on Diehard and Chapel. Liefeld has also approached Marc Pacella and Travis Charest for future issues.

Byrne given free hand on Aliens title

IN A surprising change in policy for both creator and publisher, John Byrne has been given a free hand on a new series for the Dark Horse licenced **Aliens** characters.

In the past Dark Horse has closely followed the direction of the interstellar 20th Century-Fox films, invariably commissioning lesser-known creators to work on four and six part stories.

Byrne, once more estranged from Marvel Comics following editorial frustrations, had taken to working on his own copyright creations, most notably the successful Dark Horse-published **Next Men** title.

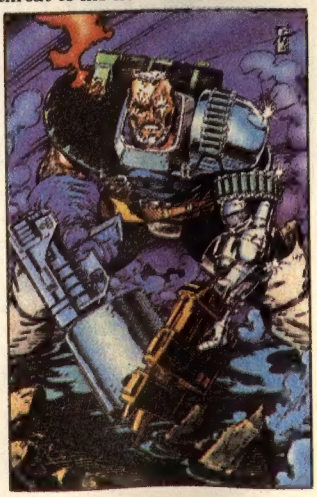
But with the disappointing sales on recent **Aliens** series and retail criticism over Dark Horse's difficulty meeting schedules and poor creator choices, it appears logical that a reliable top-flight writer-artist renowned for his rejuvenation of flagging titles (notably on **Superman, Fantastic Four** and **Hulk**) would be the perfect choice for a series cast adrift by the plot butchery of its third movie where all key characters were eliminated.

The currently unscheduled **Aliens: Earth Angel** will see Byrne take the 1980s film monsters back to their roots in a 13-issue 1950s B movie-style serial. Complete with the kookie professor, his beautiful daughter and the strong but naive handsome young investigator?

X-Men 300, Cable 1

Uncanny X-Men celebrates #300 with a March 2 shipping 64pg $3.95 special boasting a holo-grafx foil cover featuring a custom-designed X pattern. Its new storyline by Lobdell, Romita Jr and Green deals with the legacy of Magneto and points to the possibility that the Mater of Magnetism still lives.

Also shipping March 2 will be the eagerly-awaited first issue of the continuing **Cable** series. The $3.50 Nicieza-Thibert foil-embossed title will feature the reborn enigma tracking down those he believes a threat to his new timeline.



Due in the shops this month: Jim Starlin's ***Silver Surfer-Warlock: Resurrection****. A 4-issue series, with Terry Austin supplying inks following Starlin's first issue one-man show, the story tells of Warlock offering to bring the Surfer's lost love back from the dead. A cosmic quest ensues, as the Surfer discovers the true reason for Warlock's offer.*

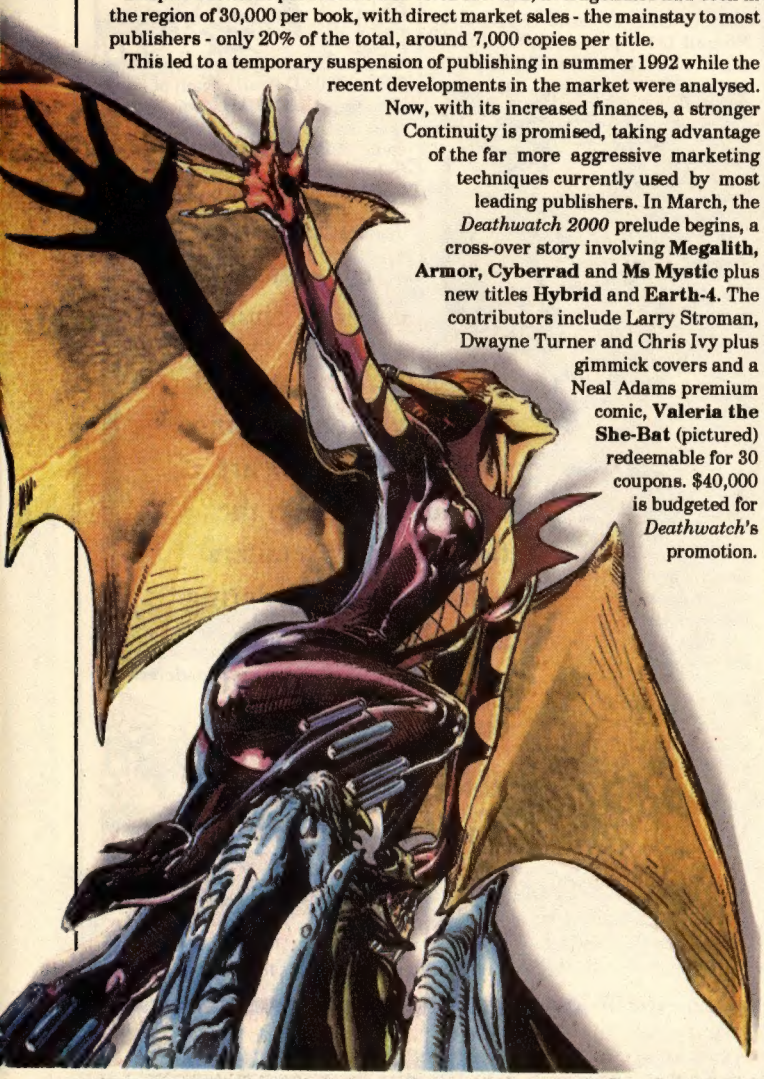
Continuity promises comeback in '93

NEAL ADAMS, probably the most influential comics artist of the 1960s, has suffered various setbacks in the production of his own company's titles under the Continuity Comics imprint.

Despite excellent production and vivid artwork, average sales had been in the region of 30,000 per book, with direct market sales - the mainstay to most publishers - only 20% of the total, around 7,000 copies per title.

This led to a temporary suspension of publishing in summer 1992 while the recent developments in the market were analysed.

Now, with its increased finances, a stronger Continuity is promised, taking advantage of the far more aggressive marketing techniques currently used by most leading publishers. In March, the *Deathwatch 2000* prelude begins, a cross-over story involving **Megalith, Armor, Cyberrad** and **Ms Mystic** plus new titles **Hybrid** and **Earth-4**. The contributors include Larry Stroman, Dwayne Turner and Chris Ivy plus gimmick covers and a Neal Adams premium comic, **Valeria the She-Bat** (pictured) redeemable for 30 coupons. $40,000 is budgeted for *Deathwatch*'s promotion.



IN BRIEF

Flashback

CYNICS will maintain it had to happen. Both Supergirl and Superboy returned, despite the re-writes in DC's history. Now the biggest **Crisis** victim of all appears to return as a blond-haired speedster makes his appearance in the February 9 shipping **Flash 75**.

As a great man once said, "We don't want progress, just the illusion of progress." Whatever next? *Surely* Superman is dead?

The Name Game

DC-MILESTONE's new black superhero was to be called *Paragon* (as announced in **Comics International 26**). But Marvel's **Crucible** was also retitled **Paragon** when DC got to **Crucible** first. So is a legal battle to ensue? No, because neither DC nor Marvel had noticed that Bill Black's AC Comics has had a character named Captain Paragon for the last ten years.

Milestone's Paragon is now **Icon**, and Marvel's Paragon is now **Illuminator**.

Golden Age revival

ROY THOMAS once more revives Golden Age comics characters in Marvel's new **Invaders** 4-parter.

With art by Dave Hoover, the March 9 shipping $1.75 monthly pits the team against super-powered Americans turned Nazis.

Perils of Perelman

PERHAPS suffering the whiplash of its recent expansion, the latest Marvel sales figures reveal that over seventy of the company's comics are selling below the normal direct sale cut-off figure, with only gimmick-cover new launches producing spectacular sales.

In the wake of Marvel's stock having more than quadrupled since going public 18 months ago, this could be particularly bad news for Marvel's owner, former corporate raider Ronald Perelman.

While Perelman also owns Revlon Cosmetics, America's second largest after Avon, he is under pressure to reduce his debts, currently running into billions of dollars.

A Dark Horse superhero

AIMING for a bite of the main market, Dark Horse's 8-issue **Propellerman** is described as "a pure superhero comic-book".

German fan of 1960s US comics, Matthias Schultheiss has his hero defend a futuristic mega-city from a giant man-made creature in the $2.95 bi-monthly on sale this month.

Science adventures: 1946

BRUCE Zick's Dark Horse 3-parter, **Terminal Point**, pits a ruthless New York industrialist against a sentient bio-machine from another dimension in Manhattan, 1946. The $2.50 title begins in February.

Groening's first

DESPITE all the **Simpsons** merchandising, creator Matt Groening had never produced his own **Simpsons** comic... until now.

A $2.95 one-shot shipping in March, **Simpsons Comics & Stories** is cover-to-cover Groening and features include the origin of Bartman, Radioactive Man and Itchy & Scratchy.

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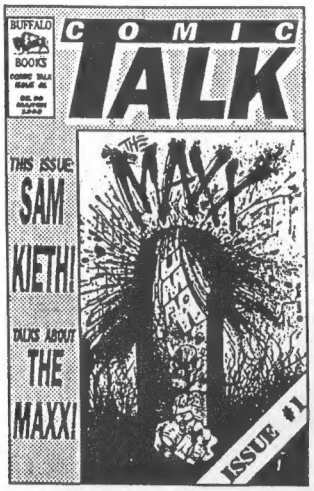
IN BRIEF

Yakkety-yack



HOT ON the heels of recently released **Comic Book Collector** ($2.95, issue one on sale this month), comes another new feature magazine, **Comic Talk**.

But while CBC's cover tells readers **Youngblood 1** has a value of $7 to $10 and uses half its 64 pages for yet another subjective price guide, **Comic Talk** focuses on creators and creations. The $2.50 32 page first issue, launching March, concentrates on **The Maxx**'s Sam Kieth.

Nomad in drag

THE CURRENT issue of Marvel's **Nomad** (#11) premieres the hard-edged artwork of Rick Mays as the

comic's hero goes undercover as a cross-dresser to track down a New Mexico killer.

Editor Glenn Herdling describes Mays as "an artist to watch".

Jusko card comic

JOE Jusko's **Marvel Masterpiece** trading card art is being reprinted in a 4-issue comic series. Named **Marvel Masterpieces Collection**, the 32 page $2.95 title's first issue ships March 16.

Life of Groo

EPIC's overdue $12.95 64 page graphic novel is now set for a March 23 shipping, 25 months late.

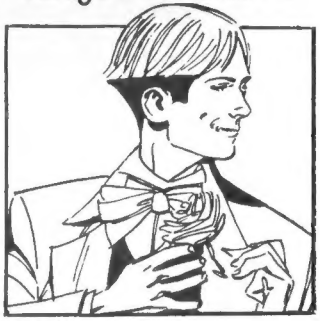
US Agent revamped

THE man who once replaced Steve Rogers as Captain America, now the

West Coast Avengers' most popular member, gets his own 4 issue mini-series as the $1.75 **U.S. Agent 1** ships April 27.

Mark Gruenwald, MC Wyman and Keith Williams rework the character into a **Punisher-Nomad** style tough guy. Shame about the costume, though.

Vertigo's Sebastian O



THE **2000AD** *Zenith* team of Grant Morrison and Steve Yeowell have their new character appear in his own DC-Vertigo 3-parter as **Sebastian O #1** ships on March 30.

Priced $1.95, it tells of a computer-aware alternative Victorian London where young dandy Sebastain O escapes from an insane asylum to wreak refined havok against his accuser.

The Mighty Magnor

WITH the death of Superman leaving the world vulnerable to attack from mighty super-villains, **MAD**'s Sergio Aragones and cohort Mark Evanier are out to fill the breach with **The Mighty Magnor**.

The artist-writer team has created **Magnor** for Malibu Comics, with the first March shipping edition featuring a pop-out cover.

Editor Chris Ulm describes Magnor as a cross between Tim Burton's Batman and James Cameron's Terminator ... and Sergio and Mark's Groo the Wanderer!

m!ndbenders

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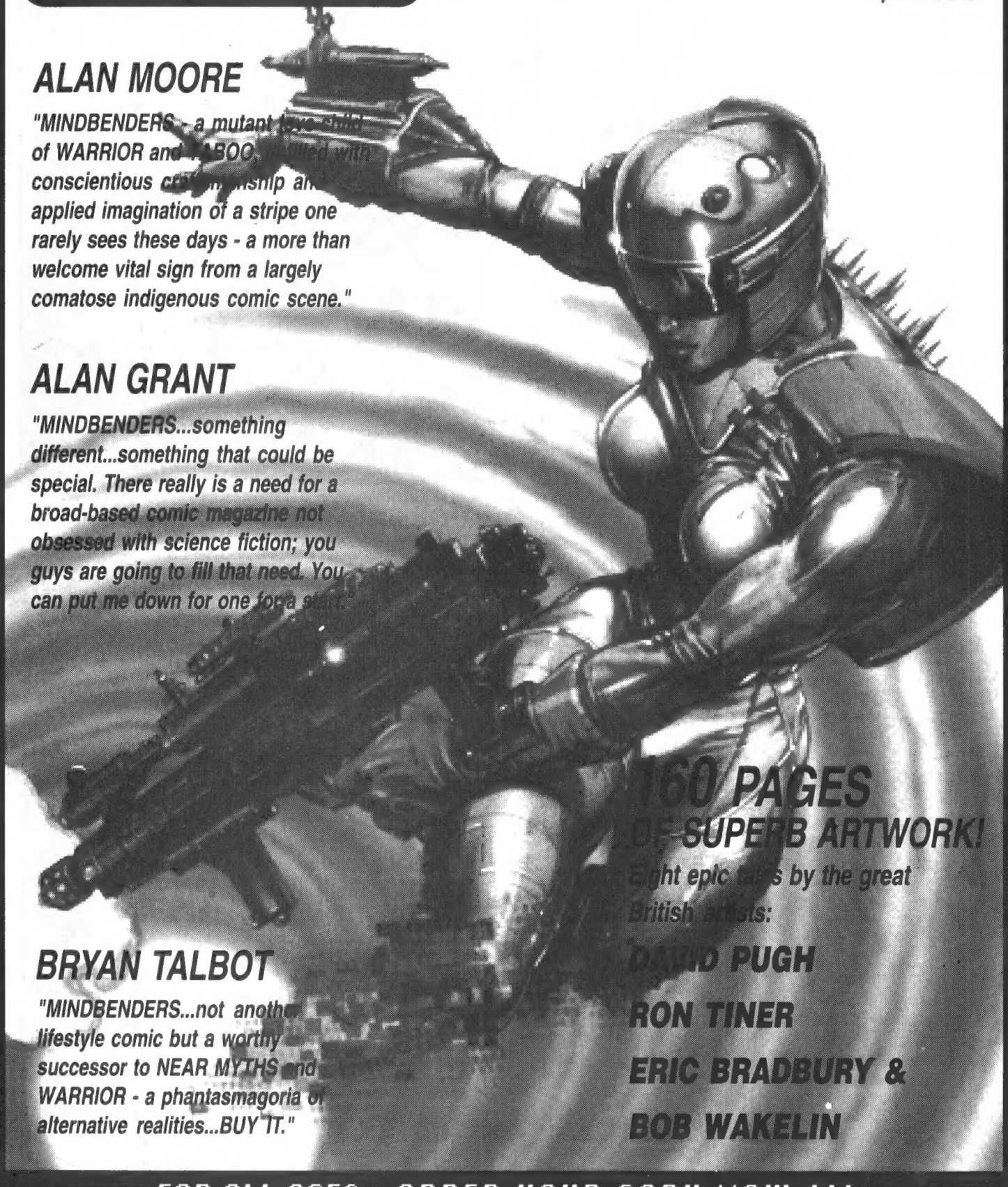

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IN BRIEF

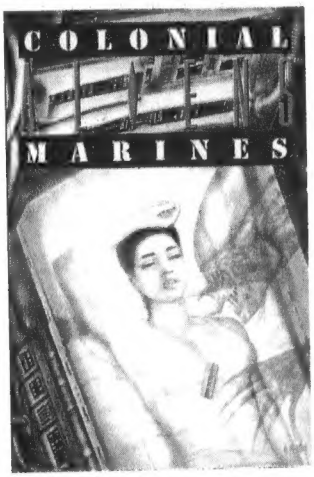
Jim Shooter: ever defiant

JIM SHOOTER has announced that his material for his new imprint Defiant Comics may be preceded by a project already in progress. While he has given no further details, the current **Wizard** features a comic shop advertisement previewing **Plasm** (pictured above), by Jim Shooter, David Lapham and Janet Jackson.

Expect everything to be clarified when Shooter attends the Glasgow Comic Art Convention (see ad elsewhere this issue).

Aliens maxi-series

DARK HORSE's key licensed property, **Aliens**, moves into top gear with the 12-issue **Aliens: Colonial Marines** debut this



month. Priced $2.50, by Warner, Akins and Guinan, it tells of a team of future marines stranded on a space station with a pack of bloodthirsty aliens at every hatchway.

The company's other big gun has a new 4-issue series beginning in February, **Predator: Race War.** The Vachs and Stradley scripted story places a Predator among other

killers - in a US state prison.

The $2.50 mature readers title is illustrated by Raskin & Wiacek with covers by Dorman.

Extinct

FOLLOWING advice from Marvel, the Rob Liefeld self-published **Executioners** title announced over a year ago had a reworking and retitling as **Extreme: The Art of Rob Liefeld** over six months ago.

Orders were taken, and retailers waited. And waited. Now, to the surprise of few, the book has been cancelled by the publisher.

Defense fund

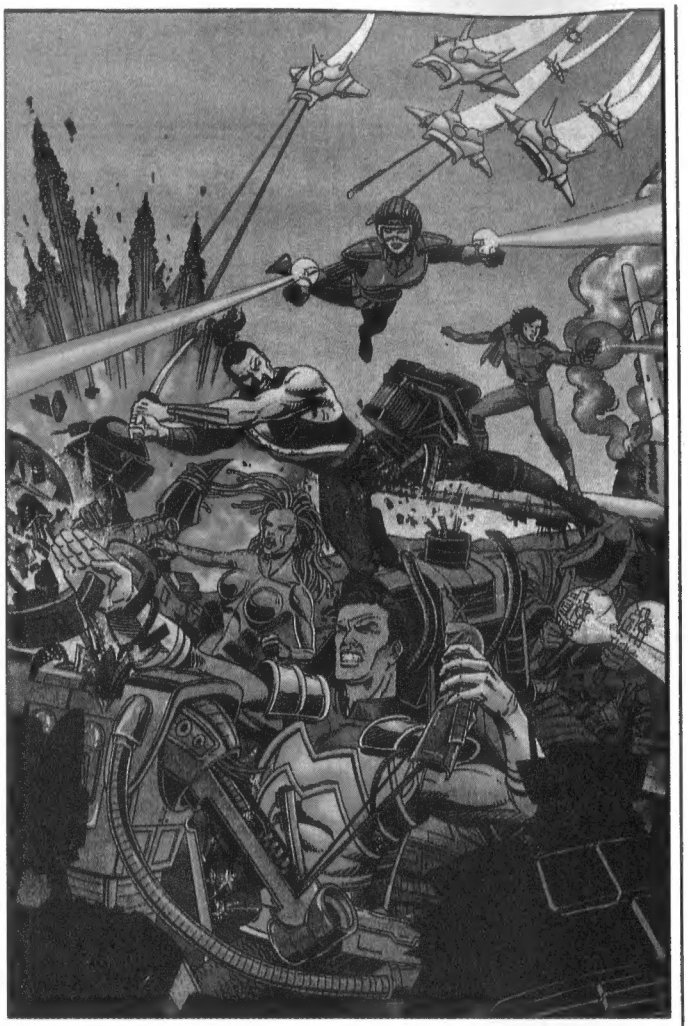
AMERICA's Comic Book Legal Defense Fund supporting comic shops facing prosecution over adult comics has received two large donations.

Peter **(Hulk)** David gave the entire two-years fee for his regular column in **The Comic Buyer's Guide** (over $5,000), while Dave **(Cerebus)** Sim donated his cheque for writing **Spawn 10** - a sum in excess of $10,000.

For further details on the CBLDF, write to: Thom Powers, PO Box 760475, Lathrup Village, MI 48076, USA or fax 0101 313 642 4141.

Spidey's new title

THE new Spider-Man comic, originally announced as **Spider-Man Super-Size** has had a title change and now begins the *Maximum Carnage* 14-parter as **Spider-Man Unlimited** (cover below). The cover price remains unchanged at $3.95.



Valiant puts on the pressure

WHILE many Image and Dark Horse titles continue to disappoint readers through missed deadlines, Valiant continues to grow in strength.

Adhering to the company's policy of 1960s Marvel-style spin-off launches, two new titles offer great promise to both the speculator and the reader. **Magnus 5** (1991) had introduced the character *Rai* who then had his own 8-issue title before meeting his ultimate fate. So it seems appropriate that February's **Magnus** (#24) should lead into the same month's rebirth of the **Rai** comic (continuing the old numbering at #9) but now titled **Rai and the Future Force.**

By Ostrander, Chen and Bolinger, it tells of the Malev's continued dominance of Earth, but offers a rai of hope as the heroes pictured above, Magnus, Gilad the Eternal Warrior, X-O Commando, Tekla and Spylocke join Rai to fight back.

Both **Magnus 24** and **Rai & the Future Force 9** are priced $2.25.

Son of Stone back in own title

Following his latest Valiant guest-spot, in **X-O Manowar 14** and **15**, Turok becomes the third Gold Key character to acquire his own Valiant title, as part of the original package first negotiated by Jim Shooter three years ago. But while **Magnus** and **Solar** had been 1960s creations for Gold Key, **Turok** was a 1950s title which spring out of Dell Publishing's **4-Color.**

Best remembered for the stunning art of Italian Alberto Gioletti, **Turok, Son of Stone** made his first appearance in **4-Color #596** (1954) along with his teen companion Andar. Following over 130 issues, Valiant will be the Turok's fourth publisher.

Turok, Dinosaur Hunter #1 by Bart Sears, ships in April with a fully metalised ink and foil cover, priced $3.50.

ADVANCE BOOKING DEADLINE: MONDAY APRIL 5th 1993

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THE CONVENTION

There will be talks and discussions featuring the convention guests, opportunities to obtain autographs and sketches. Representatives from many publishers will be present, and comic dealers will be selling back issues as well as the latest titles, graphic novels, posters and original artwork.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **AWARDS:** The winners of the 1993 **UK Comic Art Awards,** voted for by the British professional community will be announced at the convention.
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You should receive your convention entrance badge within two weeks of applying. **IMPORTANT**: If you have not received your entrance badge by **Friday April 16 1993** contact us immediately, preferably including a telephone number where you can be contacted.

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- We can accept no responsibility for advertised guests not being present.
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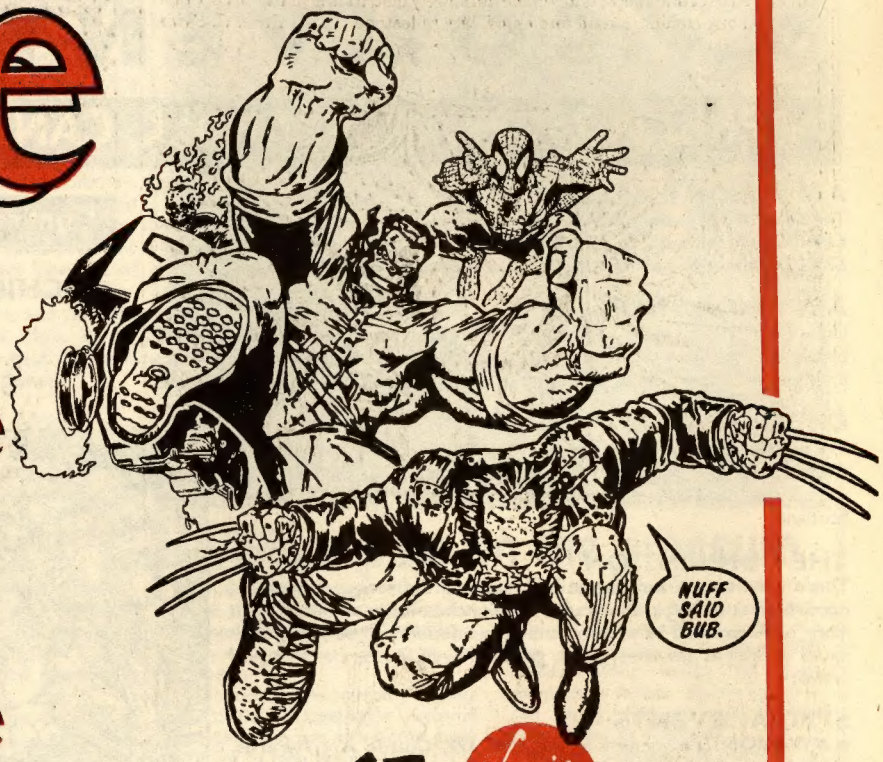

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PREVIEW

FOLLOWING our previous two issues' news coverage of the new Milestone Media titles being distributed by DC Comics, it had been our intention to run a feature on the company and its creations.

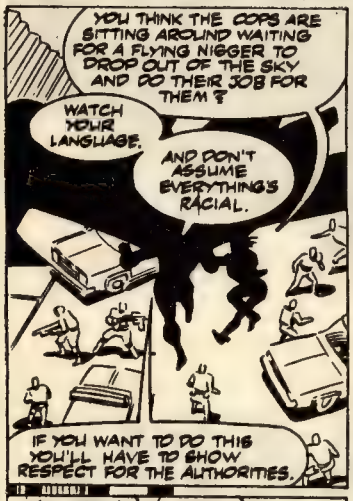
But having received preview copies of the first three comics, I felt that printing samples of the artwork and the scripting would show the quality far better than any description ever could.

The creators are black, and their characters are black (something usually not discernable in artwork before the colouring is added). Not for crass commercial reasons, but because their stories - as superheroes - should be different to Superman and Batman clones. And these are.

It hadn't been done before. It is being done now, and it works. The stories are excellent, the protagonists are clearly defined individuals, each with their own character traits. The plotting, pacing and scripting are of a calibre reminiscent of Alan Moore's early Marvelman. The artwork is clear, anatomically accurate and impressive. Best of all, it is a commercial quality act and the creators are to be applauded for getting things right before publishing instead of making their mistakes in print as so many others do.

The first three titles, **Blood Syndicate, Hardware** and **Icon**, are on sale in March in comic shops, and will be nationally distributed in the UK in June.

If you buy comics to read and enjoy, buy Milestone. *Derek G. Skinn*


YOU THINK THE COPS ARE SITTING AROUND WAITING FOR A FLYING NIGGER TO DROP OUT OF THE SKY AND DO THEIR JOB FOR THEM?
WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE.
AND DON'T ASSUME EVERYTHING'S RACIAL.
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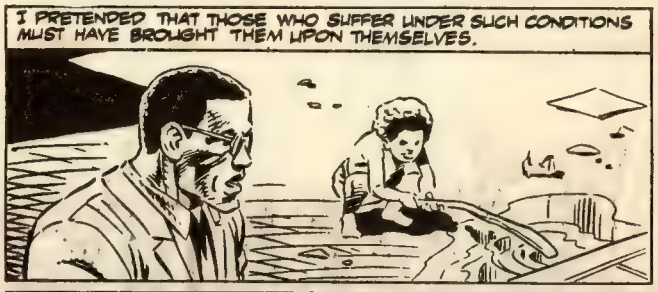
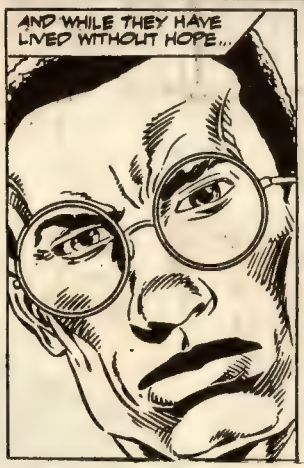
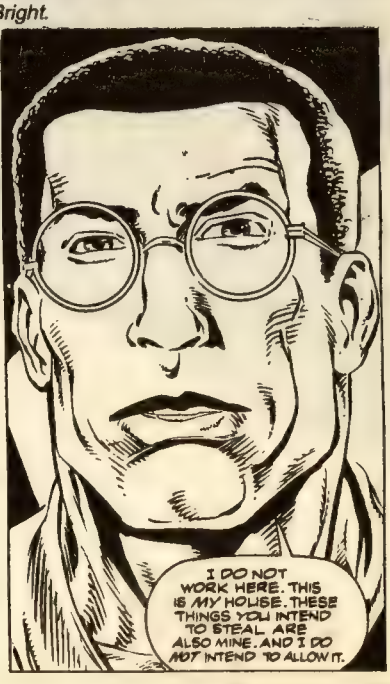




All accompanying visuals are taken from **Icon #1**, *written by by Dwayne McDuffie and drawn by M. D. Bright.*

I KNOW YOU GOT TO MAKE A LIVING, BROTHER, BUT SO DO WE. AND AIN'T NO WHITE MAN'S STUFF WORTH YOU GETTING KILLED OVER.
YOU'RE MISTAKEN ON SEVERAL ACCOUNTS, YOUNG MAN.



WHERE ?

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See our ad on page 63 of this issue

CARD NEWS

All the latest news in the fast-growing world of non-sports trading card collecting, with a special emphasis on comics-related cards.

DC Cosmic Cards II

SKYBOX International is releasing a follow-up to its 1991 *DC Cosmic Cards* with the 150 card set *DC Cosmic Teams Trading Cards*. Each features all-new profiles of super-hero and super-villain groups with each "team" divided into 18-card subsets, each subset including 3-card triptych puzzles. The series also includes nine rookie cards for new characters and randomly inserted multi-image hologram cards. Unless they're running late, as often happens, expect the cards to ship to Britain in March.

Batman: The Animated Series

Sticking with DC in March, Topps is releasing **Batman: The Animated Series** trading cards the same month as a 100 card set. Fifty feature scenes from individual episodes of the tv series, while fifty are divided into sub-sets including: heroes, villains, gadgets and vehicles, complete with character profiles and technical data. All 100 are full colour front and back.

Six limited-edition vinyl-cel stickers will also be inserted into the direct sale only packs.

Moebius contest

Comic Images is producing a March-shipping **Moebius** foil series including scenes from **Blueberry** and **Airtight Garage**. 100 prize cards are being randomly inserted into the 10-card packs (48 packs per box). The winning prize card is set to receive a piece of original Moebius artwork. All 99 runners up will receive an autographed uncut chromium press sheet.

Eclipse license Bond

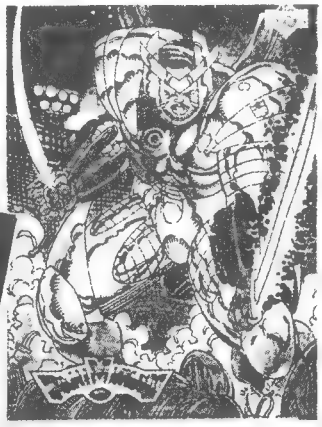
Eclipse, once a major contender in the indie publishing race, has now been reduced to reprint albums, the occasional **Miracleman** comic, and shock-tactic novelties. In keeping with their scheduling difficulties, they are releasing a 30th anniversary James Bond 110 card set -- a full year after Bond's 30th (film) anniversary.

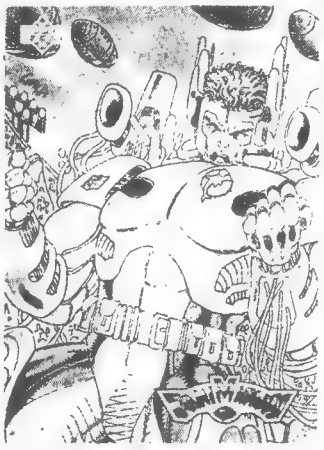
The first ever colour series, it will come in foil-wrapped twelve packs depicting scenes from the first four Connery films, with two randomly inserted hologram cards. Each box contains 36 packs and the shipping date is set for April.

Lee & Liefeld football insert cards

But the big news for comic fan and trading card collectors is the Upper Deck Series II (American) football cards. Foil packs will contain *fanimation* cards depicting leading players, drawn as super-heroes by Jim Lee and Rob Liefeld.

Because of the players' nicknames (The Giant, Gold Finger, Samurai, Machine Gun, etc), Lee and Liefeld thought they make great subjects for super-heroes.





Upper Deck say that chances are one-in-nine of finding a fanimation card by Lee or Liefeld, which are favourable odds for comic fans. Football fans have only a one in 30 chance of buying a hologram card, while short print cards average at only one in 54.

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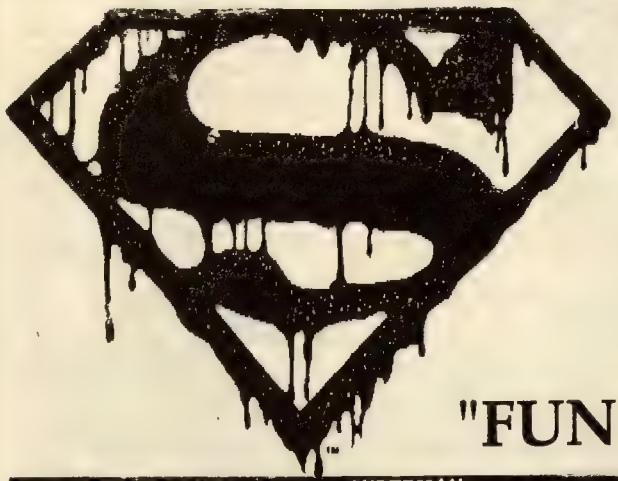

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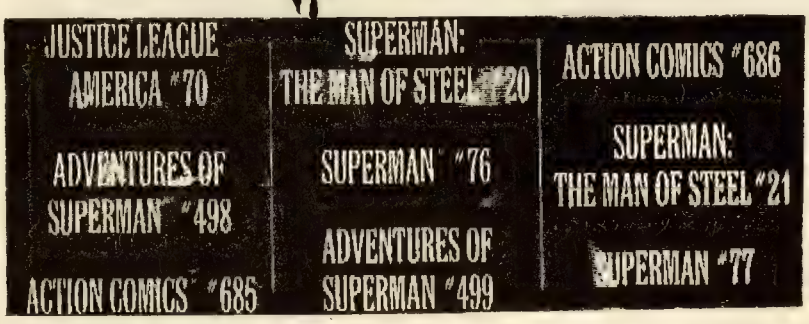

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VAT tax on comics fear

WITHIN most EC member states, books and periodicals do not enjoy a zero rate of VAT as they currently do in the UK.

With the March budget looming, it is feared reading matter will become a taxable commodity, at the standard 17.5% VAT rate.

With American comics having an average price of over a pound, prices would rise by at least 20p, reducing sales and further damaging the already-fragile industry.

When such a move was last suggested in 1985, public reaction about "taxing education" was sufficient for magazines, books, newspapers and comics to retain their zero rating.

According to a report produced at the time, the then 15% tax would have damaged sales to such an extent that as many as 1,000 magazines could have folded. It can be assumed that the current 17.5% rate, in the middle of a recession, would be even more damaging.

While printed work is taxed in most of the EC, member states benefit from a range of government subsidies which are not currently being considered in Britain.

If the Government did go ahead with this change, the UK industry would immediately become the highest taxed in Europe.

While in Britain it would be 17.5%, Ireland currently has the highest EC VAT rate on print, at 10%, while Germany charges 7%, Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain and the Netherlands 6%, Portugal 5%, Italy and Greece 4% and France 2.1%. But these are all reduced rates with the standard European VAT ranging from 15% to 25%.

The Periodical Publishers Association (PPA), representing the UK's magazine industry, has embarked on a media and political campaign to demonstrate to the Government the dire consequences of such a move.

"By changing the VAT rating," said PPA chairman Neil McRae, "the Government would be taxing society's right to read, and would be reneging on pledges made both before and after the 1992 general election."

He continued, "We find it hard to believe that this Government could knowingly strike such a blow when illiteracy is a recognised mounting problem and so much emphasis is being placed on reading in schools."

Outside of how this will inevitably hurt publishers and freelance contributors, the effect on retailers - whose major customer base is school goers - could be devastating.

Comics International urges its readers to make their voices heard. Ours is an industry where many have actually learned to read. Through comics, self-learning can be a pleasurable pursuit.

Parliament has had a long-established principle of not taxing knowledge, reading and ideas. Write to your MP and remind he/she of the government's pledge. (DGS)

The revitalisation of fandom: critical debate and speculation

IN THE 1960s and 1970s, several contributors to **Comics International** served their apprenticeship writing for fanzines - a name taken from the science fiction genre long before music and the **Daily Mirror** kidnapped the word. Many of today's leading comics artists had their first public exposure through fanzines.

Yet in the 1990s, when the comics industry is larger than ever before and a unique distribution service exists for the ever-increasing number of comics shops, where are the fanzines?

The small press is able to provide an outlet for artists, but writers have had little space to express their views, with the few existing publications favouring column upon column of subjective value guides above critical appraisal of content.

Now, in Britain if not America, a change is taking place. No less than three new titles are currently being launched, all produced by fans who care about comics and want to provide forums for lively debate and analysis.

Perhaps smitten by **Wizard**, the youngest of the three new editors is graduate Jaspal Dale whose unwieldy-titled **Comics Speculator News** promises hints and tips on the investment side of comics, together with a healthy mix of interviews, features and news. Though his labour-intensive issue zero is a spiral-bound set of photocopied pages, he promises an ambitious launch for issue one, with a print run of over 5,000.

Andy Brewer has chosen to ignore the investment aspects of comics in favour of an old-style fanzine with **Battleground** in which he urges readers to write expressing their views about comics and welcomes controversy and heated passionate debate.

Phil Hall has already experienced editing a fanzine having produced **Media** in the late 1970s and now with the advantages of desk-top publishing is launching **Mutant Media**. His passion for mutant comics is such he was interviewed recently as "the country's leading X-Men fan" in London's **City Limits** and promises news, checklists and debates on the hottest-selling concept in comics in his February-launching title.

Look for details on the above and new small press titles at comic marts, in comic shops and in the classified column at the back of this magazine.

Fanzines provide an excellent training ground and showcase for new talent and should be supported.

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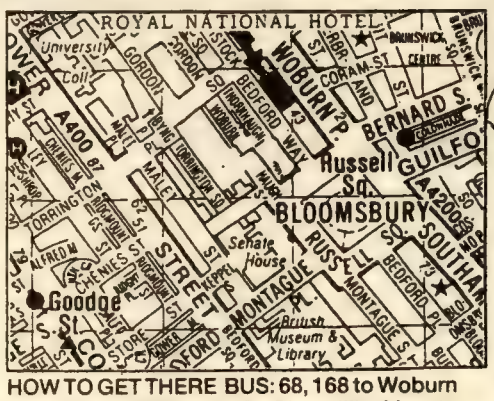

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IN BRIEF

Titan takeover update

LAST MONTH 15 retailers expressed their somewhat critical opinions in print on the proposed American takeover of London's Titan Distributors in *ComicWatch*, **Comics International 27**.

This led to Titan managing director Mike Lake sending out a letter to each of them, outlining the current situation with the delay.

Admitting he was not unaware of their feelings and concerns, he reiterated his point made at the initial public announcement last September saying, "I wouldn't do this deal with Diamond if I didn't think the customers would benefit, and I still feel that way."

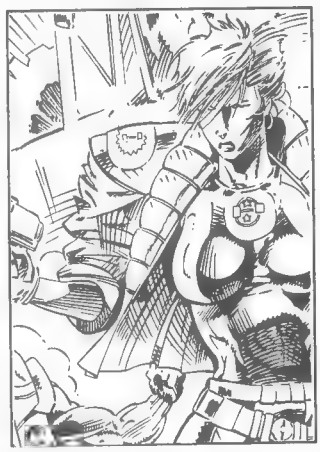
He continued, "Fate and legal realities have conspired to leave our arrangements in a sort of limbo... This gives us the interesting situation of having the deal *on approval*, with a money-back guarantee.

"Please be absolutely assured that this deal will complete only if I'm happy that *you* are going to be happy," he concluded.

With the merger referred to the Department of Trade and Industry's Monopolies & Mergers Commission and the high court action against Diamond being brought by their UK ex-managing director, Titan and Diamond continue to trade as separate, though understandably none-too- competitive, UK based companies.

Despite rumours of their own UK base being established, major US rival Capital City has so far failed to make any UK commitment beyond supplying traders with comics direct from the States.

Two more from Marvel



MARVEL UK adds two new US format titles this May:

- **Dances with Demons** is a new horror title by Simon Jowett and Charlie Adlard. Guest starring the Ghost Rider, it tells of a young American indian student and beach bum, James Owl, pursued by a manitou demon intent on claiming him before his latent powers manifest themselves.
- **Cyberspace 3000**, by Gary (**Dark Angel**) Russell and newcomer Steve Tappin, is described by the publisher as *a new ongoing science fiction epic in the classic style of Star Trek and Aliens.*

Telling the story of a group of survivors from the Badoon-ravaged Earth in the 31st century, it guest stars Galactus and the Guardians of the Galaxy.

Readers also discover that Galactus's 31st century herald is Marvel UK's Dark Angel.

Readers curious about the name change from **Hell's Angel** will be interested to hear that as well as to avoid limited distribution in the more religious parts of America it was to also in answer to claims of prior ownership - from the American motorbike fraternity, who felt they were being brought into disrepute.

The company's **Shadow Riders**, promised for a December 1992 launch, has been postponed to April.

Mandarin add three

FOLLOWING the success of their first set, Mandarin Books has produced three more full colour trade paperbacks compiling **2000AD** and **Judge Dredd the Megazine** material.

Judge Dredd: Heavy Metal Dredd (£4.99) collects the **Rock Power** serial by Simon Bisley.

Devlin Waugh: Swimming in Blood (£6.99) reprints the **Megazine** strip, and **Top Dog** (£5.99) compiles the recent Dredd and Strontium Dog Johnny Alpha weekly story.

All three will be on sale in March.

Aliens UK

WHILE Dark Horse International's UK newsstand **Aliens** has been ignored by fans as a reprint title, the March issue (#9) will be giving a first showing to a new story, *Sacrifice*, by Pete Milligan and Paul Johnson.

Also included is an insert comic collecting the **Aliens** strip by Mike Richardson and Denis Beauvais originally serialised in **Dark Horse Insider**.

Arkwright RPG

THE role playing game based on Bryan Talbot's **Adventures of Luther Arkwright** is to be distributed in Britain in April by Hobbygames Ltd, with director John Maitland promising a strong launch campaign, while Capital City will handle US distribution.

Promoting the game further, Bryan Talbot is producing an Arkwright cover for June's **Role Player Independent #3** following work by Ramsey Campbell, Dave Taylor, John McRea and James Brunton in the first two issues.

Missing artist

MIKE Matthews, the West Didsbury-based Lancashire comics artist disappeared over the Christmas week, after taking his dog for a walk. He is mildly schizophrenic in a non-violent way and suffers from catalepsy.

Large police searches of parks and open grounds have proved futile and anyone with information should contact Chief Inspector Peter Sloane of Platt Street Police Station, Didsbury.

Mike is best known for his work in **Knockabout** and his collaborations with New York singer/writer Lydia Lunch.

New UK publishers

TWO new UK comics publishers are about to launch titles, **Mindbenders** and **Black Tower**. A full report follows next month.

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MEDIA FILE

Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product

IF YOU'RE a Marvel Comics share owner you might, in the future, look back at January 1993 and conclude that it would have been a good time to jump ship. Before we're accused of idle speculation, let's take a look at the facts.

The London **Evening Standard's** *Business Day* has reported that "Ronald Perelman... has been under pressure to pare down his debts. They run into billions of dollars" (15.1.1993).

Ronald O. Perelman is the latest in a line of owners of Marvel Comics and has a reputation as a red-blooded corporate raider. By definition, corporate raiders are not long term players, and this one needs to raise cash, badly. The **Standard** suggested that "perhaps old Spidey can swing to the rescue". But will Perelman be able to hold out long enough for that rescue?

He has a fair chance of doing so if the much-vaunted green shoots revitalise the West's economy. In that case, confidence in Marvel's shares would be likely to remain firm until the box-office returns from Jim (**Aliens**) Cameron's *Spider-Man* movie start to roll in.

But if Wall Street doesn't get the shot in the arm it needs from a lift in the recession, Perelman will quickly have to renegotiate his debt repayments, in much the same way as corporate raiders Rupert Murdoch and Robert Maxwell had to do in 1991.

Where does this leave Marvel? At the time of the initial share offer, Capital Distribution's chief executive, Milton Griepp said, "One must form an opinion about Marvel's "intangible assets" (the potential value of character licenses, etc.). That determines whether one thinks Marvel is dangerously unbalanced or a great buy" (see report, **Comics International** #12).

The market's bullish attitude towards Marvel's quadrupled share price doesn't alter the fact that any sign of vulnerability on Perelman's part - as there now appears to be - signals that the key player isn't safe. If Wall Street gets that message, the whole house of cards could collapse. The stock market, after all, is all about confidence.

Aside from Perelman's immediate needs from the company, Marvel's huge licensing potential means that its future should be safe. But looking at the debt loaded on to the company when Perelman bought it, his financial downfall would be reflected in crises in Marvel's publishing arm.

With the current sales lull at Marvel (see *News America*, this issue) it would be easy for Perelman to shift any problems into the publishing house from elsewhere in Marvel Entertainment - and strip any assets out. For example, retaining the licensing and film companies only, he would regain the market's confidence and loose a lot of debt liability, in the same way loss-making Marvel UK was restructured and moved out of the Marvel portfolio.

For Marvel Comics, even if this doomsday scenario doesn't come to pass, its immediate future still rides on Perelman's commitment to continue publishing comics.

When he came into the public eye at the end of the 1980s, there was one fact that was continually pointed out in financial editorials: Perelman was a survivor; when all the other junk-bond dealers were exposed, he was the one who held on to the gains he had made during the boom years. He's quick on his feet and, if you still have Marvel shares, it will be worth your while to keep an eye on the business media.

A questionable title

An intensive TV advertising campaign was launched during the second week of January for **What's it Worth**, a new Marshall Cavendish part-work.

Comics were prominently featured (twice) in the new launch's prime-time commercial, complete with shots of the Punisher-debut **Spider-Man 129**.

Viewers' were informed by the purring, value-added voice of Ian (**Lovejoy**) McShane that their old comics might be worth money.

Comics International staff duly rushed out the next day, impatient to get their hands on this new money-making title, sold as containing hints, tips *and* a price guide.

Riffling through the 28-page glossy, we missed the comics section the first time, then hit on the four-page section where we would learn what our old comics might be worth.

We learned that Batman had increased the relative value of American comics, that the first great comics heroes were Weary Willy and Tired Timmy, and that balloons and toffees were the hot free gifts in 1914.

That was the first page. Then, on the following spread, we were given a brief history of British comics (300 words), and a few very oddly assorted cover reproductions: **Judy** (1960); **Action Comics** (1983); **Adventure** (1921); **The Dandy** (1944) and so on.

But, like everyone who had responded to the promotion, we were still wanting to know how much our old comics were worth. But all that was offered were icons used as a key to "price ranges", which were applicable to every product in the magazine, from teddy bears to rocking chairs. The nearest it gets to anything specific is the tip "*Copies of 2000 AD dating from the late 1970s and early 1980s, now worth over £2 each, are a good investment*".

"Collector's Notes" on the final page suggests looking at car-boot sales for "great bargains", a revelation indeed; while the 200-word "What to Look For" alerts readers to the fact that condition might affect price.

There was no suggested further reading and nothing whatsoever about where readers could actually *sell* their comics, and certainly no price guide as suggested in the TV commercial.

But, as any regular **Lovejoy** watcher knows, the antiques dealer played by Ian McShane is a bit of a rogue. Perhaps that was why Marshall-Cavendish chose him to present their new title.

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COMICWATCH

ComicWatch is the monthly column in which traders provide details about the retail comics industry, in the form of statistics and opinions.

A core group of thirty businesses selling old and new comics receive questionnaires, asking specific questions about values and trends. Alternating months, their replies provide our Top 100 comics chart and debate on current topics.

NON-SPORTS TRADING CARDS

DESPITE the ever-increasing number of new comic titles being published, comics-related trading cards have become a major second market for many retailers. We asked traders if they carried cards, and if so, why. Of 20 replies: YES: 100%

***ACE Comics'** Martin Beeson:* "They are an extra source of income, but as difficult to predict sales-wise as *hot* comics."
***Acme's** David Jerrom:* "We have a certain amount of clients who are interested in card collecting although the Image cards are total crap.
***Arcadia's** Ron Castree:* "When priced correctly, they can be a very lucrative additional line of product."
***Avalon's** Mark Perry:* "The quality and collectability of the cards goes from strength to strength and are a great addition to any collection."
***Comix Shoppe's** Simon Davies:* "Customer (and staff) demand. Also they make good point-of-sale impulse sellers being tied in with existing product"
***Demon Comics's** Paul Bentley:* "We initially tested the water with just a box or two on the counter about fifteen months ago, and soon found out there was such demand that we hardly have any counter space left. Many dealers, though, are spoiling the market by opening boxes with the intention of selling the cards separately, especially the "chase" cards, and easily making their money back quickly. This ruins the collector's interest. I therefore have no sympathy with those dealers who opened boxes upon boxes of **Hellraiser** cards hunting for holograms which couldn't be found!"
***Dynamic Comics'** John Newton:* "A good till-side add on."
***Floppy Tongue's** Simon Joy:* "We are devoting more and more space in the shop to them. It also renewed my interest in the store. Nothing better than the look on a kid's face when he finds a hologram."
***Forest Comics'** Alan & Gill Porter:* "They are popular. They bring in new customers and on occasions contribute up to 30% of our sales. Size makes storage and handling easier than comics."
***Imagination Station's** Tommy Hoodless:* "We carry them because there is a lot of interest in the field."
***Incognito's** Dave Finn:* "We stock cards to complement our other stock ranges. Covering comics, s-f and films, cards provide a good sales link between similar lines."
***Maelstrom's** Nick Monahan:* "I stock cards because everybody else does. But my sales are poor so I will be phasing packs out and just selling sets."
***Negative Zone's** Terry Gay:* "Very small sales, but some customers keep buying."
***Planet X's** Matt Jones:* "Wise up! Trading cards are great fun, both to read and collect. We love them."
***Siegl's Comics'** Siegi Longman:* "High demand, especially for special cards: holograms and spectras."
***Squonk Mail Order's** Phil Hall:* "I carry cards to attract people to my table at marts and to stimulate mail order business."
***They Walk Among Us'** Jon Browne:* "I stock them because customers want them. Why else? Oh, yes, I collect them too."
***Whatever Comics'** Maney Armario:* "Trading cards have been of interest to me for as long as I can remember (**Batman, Man from UNCLE, Fireball XL5**, etc). I collected them as a boy, so the renewed interest is great. I just hope it isn't a flash in the pan."
***Wonderworld's** David Hern:* "Trading cards are a natural extension to our existing product."

ON VALIANT & IMAGE:

WITH Valiant having lost its editorial head and Image having left its promotions and distribution partner we asked: How do you see the post-Shooter Valiant and post-Malibu Image titles shaping up?

ACE Comics: "Valiant I see as a stable line of good quality titles. Image is a deadline-ridden blessing and curse."
Acme: "Valiant produce a good product and should last. Image can't get its act together now, so forget their solo future. They look nice when we see them, but where are they?
Avalon: "Valiant seems to have set a direction for its universe with future events pre-planned (such as **Rai 0**) and continues to produce nice books which ship on time. Image, however, has great talent and great new titles solicited, and yet they can't get the actual product out on time. I can't see the split from Malibu improving things."
Comix Shoppe: "Valiant still sells the same as a low-to-average Marvel. Investors keep the back issue prices high, stopping people who want to read them from being able to afford them. Image sells very well, but in some cases I can't understand why. But if their scheduling remains so poor, readers are going to drift away to regular monthlies. **Spawn**'s guest writers is attracting a lot of interest."
Demon: "Valiant should do okay, but Image is so irregular (except **Spawn**) that I wonder if they can get any worse."
Dynamic: "Valiant sales are so poor I only stock to order. Image sell well when they come out, but we can only hope the new publisher helps us all by having tight deadlines that are kept to. I wonder how long Image will last; team work does include having a publisher.
Forest: "Predictions: Valiant - steady growth into third major publisher.

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Image - only **Spawn** will survive, and probably with a different publisher. DC, perhaps?"

Imagination Station: "Valiant stories aren't as strong as they were, and Image sells... whenever titles appear."

Maelstrom: "Valiant goes from strength to strength. Image: initial success followed by a realisation that the end-product is poor in a lot of cases."

Negative Zone: "Full marks to Valiant for keeping up standards post-Shooter. Image needs an editor to kick butt deadline-wise otherwise goodbye."

Planet X: "Both companies are too big to stop now. I think the fans are committed, but can the creators stay on course?"

Siegi's: "Valiant quality still not recovered. Image hot enough to survive."

Skinny Melink: "Valiant probably strong enough to survive, thanks to Shooter. Image will die off, only **Spawn** will survive."

Squonk: "As Valiant attract some top names, I see them firmly established as #3 behind DC and Marvel. Image: I expect to see **Wildcats, Pitt** and **Wetworks** at Dark Horse within the year, and maybe **Cyberforce** at Epic. The rest is not fit for publishing, except by Malibu."

They Walk Among Us: "Valiant are a very tasty proposition and are coping well without Shooter, although it's still a shame he had to go. Image: one can only wonder if we'll see more than a handful of comics from them in 1993. I've never heard such a lame-assed bunch of excuses for what amounts to nothing more than unprofessionalism."

Whatever: "Valiant holding its own. Upcoming projects look good, however a little bit of magic has been lost with Shooter gone. Image: fine if they can hit deadlines."

Wonderworld: "Image in particular has the fanboy market well sussed."

SUGGESTED HOT TITLES TO WATCH:

Acme: **Web of Spider-Man 95 96; Spirits of Vengeance 5 6; Namor 26; Marvel Comics Presents 117 118** and **Excalibur 41**

Avalon: **Bloodshot 1**

Comix Shoppe: **Dracula** (Topps) **1; Robin III #1**

Demon: **Faust 9; Quantum Leap** all; **Namor 26** up.

Dynamic: **Wild Cats 2; Fantastic Four 371; Superman 75** (direct).

Imagination Station: **Superman 75** bagged; **Amazing Spiderman 374 375; Venom 1**

Maelstrom: Dark Horse's **Grendal War Child 1**; Marvel's **Death's Head II vol 2 #1; Animal Man 51**; Topps **Dracula.**

Negative Zone: The new Topps line looks promising.

Skinny Melink: **Wolverine 10** (Sabretooth); **Magnus v Predator** platinum

Squonk: **X-O Manowar 14**

They Walk Among Us: Topps **Dracula**; Valiant's **Bloodshot**; **Harbinger** tr paperback

Whatever Comics: **Namor 26** (1st Jae Lee); **Dr Strange 14** (Morbius); the gold logo **HARD** Corps 1; Topps **Dracula 1**; **Superman 75** platinum edition; **Marvel Spotlight 2** (Werewolf by Night)

Wonderworld: **Bloodshot 1**

INDUSTRY PREDICTIONS FOR 1993:

ACE Comics: "Expect a new independent company formed by the "old guard" after their guesting for Image."

Acme: "It's not going to be an easy year."

Comix Shoppe: "A glut of new titles leading to publisher and shop closures."

Demon: Even more dealers will go to the wall. Sadly it's the ones who are only in it for the money who will survive."

Dynamic: "Gimmick covers being phased out and a return to good art and good stories in the same book...a revival of the American comic business in the UK ... more fanboy-style comic shops closing down and more business-orientated shops opening."

Floppy Tongue: "More shops going down but others springing up to take their place. Hopefully it will be the bad ones that go. Look out for a big push from American trading card companies into this country."

Imagination Station: POP! (the bubble will burst)

Maelstrom: "Capital City Distribution to make a move into the UK. Many more bagged Deaths comics. Atomeka will be successful."

Negative Zone: "Marvel's share of the market will decrease (how many more versions of Punisher and Ghost Rider can we take?).

Planet X: "More comics than ever."

Siegi's: "Another 50+ naff new titles from Marvel."

Skinny Melink: "Can be a good year if they don't flood the market with product. Marvel needs a Crisis-type event to trim down their universe."

Squonk: "Expect the following: Fan backlash at Marvel. The recessional implosion will up a gear, and I won't return to retailing."

They Walk Among Us: "Accurate ordering will become increasingly important. Shops which find this impossible will go under. Shops run by people who work rather than employ others to do their work will continue to do well. Marvel will start cancelling poor titles like they used to do. Only one issue of **Savage Dragon** will be published. **Ren & Stimpy** will be destroyed by HM Customs & Excise."

Whatever Comics: "Card market could implode (but I hope not). With the glut of gimmick covers, a normal cover will become unusual."

Wonderworld: "The same as 1992, only more so."

Next month: topics include Vertigo, gimmicks, the media, and Death of Superman

GLOUCESTER COMIC MART

Gloucester Leisure Centre

Bruton Way, Inner Ring Road

(Head for the inner city & railway station. It is well signposted, ample parking spaces.)

FEBRUARY 20th 1993

Future Gloucester marts for 1993:
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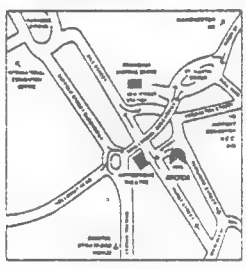

DOORS OPEN 11 AM
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BIRMINGHAM'S NEWEST COMIC VENUE is situated in Ladywell Walk, which is off Hurst Street, Birmingham. Hotel Arcade is just minutes away from 'Readers World' and 'Nostalgia and Comics'. It is also a short walk away from New Street Railway Station, the Bull Ring Bus Station and Shopping Precinct. There will be new dealers with a large selection of latest imports, Marvel and D. C. and Independents, plus old and collectable comics. There will also be trading cards and film memorabelia plus related items.

The Hotel Bar will be open from 12 noon onwards. There is also tea and coffee and hot and cold meals available.

There is ample Car Parking available to the rear of the Hotel Arcade for a fee of £2 for the day. It is situated in the Arcadian Complex in Bromsgrove Street adjacent to the new MGM Film Complex in Hurst Street.

Hotel Rooms are available, via the Hotel Arcade, either single or twin rooms

Future Birmingham marts for 1993:
March 13, May 22 (with Bryan Talbot), Aug 28, Nov 11

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COMMENT

***Comment** is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry.*

As such, the opinions stated do not necessarily reflect those of the publication, and space will be given in subsequent issues to opposing views. Editing of accepted manuscripts will be done only as a matter of grammar, clarity and space consideration.

Naivete: a sad case

Comment by Paul Cranfield, Milton Keynes

IT MAY, IN John Newton's words (*Comment*, issue #26) be sad to see some comic shops go out of business, but it is even more sad to see a retailer putting forward such naive views as those expressed in his contribution.

I am a somewhat unusual animal, being both a bank manager and a comics collector of some 25 years' standing. These two facts qualify me (I believe) to contest John's opinions.

I do not have any knowledge of *Dynamic Comics* (John Newton's shop), but do know personally two retailers whose businesses have failed within the trade recently.

In my opinion, the reason for said failures can be attributed to two causes:

1. A high fixed cost base (rental being the most damaging) taken on in times of market buoyancy and supported by realistic cashflow projections at the time.

Naturally, in extremely recessionary times, this can cause irreparable damage to the viability of any business.

2. The irrational but nevertheless effective (at least to date) insistence of the comics companies in pursuing a massively expansionist policy in the depths of recession.

The two retailers did not over-order in the hope of making a killing in a rising market. They, like their customers, became wrapped up in the hype initially triggered by the revamping of the X-titles.

What gives you the authority to assert that blind over-ordering has ever been the policy of responsible retailers, John?

However, anticipating demand for new products and attempting to order sufficient copies to satisfy regulars - who will only buy "sight seen" - is a more delicate skill, and one which every retailer - even you, perhaps, John - gets wrong on occasion.

Making a few wrong judgement calls when cashflow is tight can tip the delicate balance and set the hapless retailer on the rocky road to wind up.

You make two further assertions, John, which do not stand up to analysis. Firstly, there is not a wealth of new customers out there, itching to buy comics from you. The market has never been that healthy, and it is a fallacy to give readers the impression that it is presently the case. Any local catchment will quickly define itself, and in the midst of a recession, new punters will be far and few between.

So, if you are not getting your one new customer a day, to whom are you going to sell your new titles? Existing punters and fanboys, of course.

My experience through being one of the former is that there is a limit to the level of consumption. Over this barrier, punters will not step. Thus if new titles attract their attention, you will see their existing titles dropped. Where is the additional profit in that?

So we are back to an earlier area of discussion. How does the retailer know which titles will be dropped and which new titles favoured? Without a crystal ball, s/he clearly cannot.

Therefore, the retailer is torn between providing a wide range of product and perhaps achieving incremental sales, but also tying up purchasing power, or reducing the volumes ordered and disappointing his customers, who will then go elsewhere.

I have harboured a desire for many years to run my own comics shop. However, recently the odds have become so heavily stacked against the retailer that I would not now wish to do so. Neither would I encourage anyone to go into the trade in its present state.

John, I too wait to see a positive, buoyant retail marketplace. I don't enjoy seeing friends go out of business. But your cavalier attitude does nothing to assist the debate in these difficult times.

Toughing it out

Comment by Skinny Melink, comics retailer

SINCE HE ISN'T retailer, Adrian Carline wouldn't be expected to understand that comic shops actually place their orders around three months in advance of receiving a comic, sometimes even longer.

That means that with a new title, we're ordering the first three or four issues, before it's even been released. For instance, as of this writing (late December) we've already ordered **Pitt** 4, though there's no sign yet of issue #1.

In other words, we're ordering blind, more often than not with little idea of what the comic will actually look like, and even less of an idea of how it will read or sell. **Cage** and **Deathlok**, for example, were expected to be much bigger sellers than they turned out to be, while few shops properly anticipated the initial runaway success of **Ghost Rider**, though sales of the reprints of the original series are dismal.

In some cases we have the previous or current popularity of a particular character, or creator, to

guide us; though this is a far from reliable barometer of how their new project will turn out. Last year's Ghost Rider-Punisher-Wolverine team-up had all the hallmarks of a monster seller, but it ended up being close to a disaster.

Similarly, few of John Byrne's fans followed him to **She-Hulk**, and Jim Lee fans tell me that they find his current art on **W.I.L.D.Cats** to be vastly inferior to his earlier work on **X-Men**. While compared to his previous track record, former fan fave Alan Moore's latest outing, the graphic novel **A Small Killing**, was a great disappointment, in terms of both quality and sales.

In the case of an essentially unknown quantity such as **Youngblood**, the best we can do is to make an educated guess as to how well it will sell. (Given that my orders precisely coincided with those of the market en masse, I imagine that my methods of reasoning were basically an accurate reflection of that of retailers on the whole.) As there was tremendous anticipation for the title, stemming from Liefeld's work on **X-Force**, it was a safe bet that issue one, at any rate, would be a fairly big seller. Most mutant freaks, we knew, would probably buy a copy, and the speculator section of the market would doubtless be purchasing their multiple copies. On the other hand, Liefeld wasn't actually a writer, and most artists who try their hand at writing tend to discover that there's a lot more to it than they had thought, and their first efforts are generally fairly mediocre. Just ask Todd McFarlane.

Thus there was the strong possibility that **Youngblood** wouldn't be very good. In the end, I settled on 100 copies of issue one: enough, at any rate, to satisfy the initial demand for it. (As it turned out, I had to reorder it twice, having somewhat underestimated Liefeld's drawing power, and the power of hype, though I actually overestimated his writing ability.)

In ordering the second issue, it was an equally safe bet that a lot less people would be buying it. Besides the suspicion that it wasn't going to be very good, past experience has shown that about one third of the people who bought issue one wouldn't be coming back for issue #2. Nor would the speculators be buying multiple copies. Taking the above into consideration, I cut my orders for issue two in half - to 50 copies, and dropped it to 30 for issue three. Both amounts proved to be about right, though issue "0" has only sold about 20 copies thus far.

So you can see, Adrian. It wasn't reader reaction at all that accounted for the 50 per cent drop in orders for **Youngblood** 2, as you though, but retailer anticipation.

As for "the greedy likes of Rob Liefeld growing rich at the desperation, stupidity and expense of the comic buying public", I stand by what I said. People *were* suckered into buying **Youngblood**, purely on the basis of hype. It was like a feeding frenzy when the comic first arrived, and even after being warned that it was an abysmally rotten comic, people *still* bought it and Liefeld, as they say, laughed all the way to the bank.

Nor do I believe it's childish, Adrian, to send a torn up copy of **Youngblood** to Image. History is full of such symbolic gestures, which have proven to be far more effective statements than a mere critical letter ever could be.

As for John Newton's comments, it would be nice if he had read my *Comment* properly. I did *not* accuse readers of being unable to follow storylines - what I said was that it was difficult to do so when you come in on the *middle* of one. Furthermore, I find his sarcasm misplaced - "it's all very worthy, looking for every book to be the best art and story, etc.", he says. "But what it all boils down to in the end is, does it sell?".

Most retailers I know originally got into comics because they loved them, and I personally find it a real shame that recent years have seen the genre come to be dominated by formula-drawn forays into mindless juvenilia in which groups of one-dimensional, clone, costumed steroid casualties devoid of character or personality, fight endless battles with more of the above.

It wasn't that long ago that comics were reaching new creative, literary and artistic heights - now they're hitting incredible new lows. (The only way, incidentally, that Rob Liefeld and Jack Kirby can be mentioned in the same breath, as Mike Kidson does in his letter, would be to say that Liefeld isn't fit to sharpen Kirby's pencils).

So maybe John Newton doesn't care if the comics are good or not, but I still do. In my book, John, it doesn't all boil down to "does it sell?".

Nor do I need to be reminded that it's the comic buying public that keeps me in business. In fact, it is precisely because I so value the loyalty and trade of my regular customers that I feel I have an obligation to warn them when something as bad as **Youngblood** comes along. In my shop, when a customer asks if a particular comic is any good, it's our policy to answer them truthfully. I know my customers appreciate this, and in the long run, I'm sure that business is all the better for it.

Mad as hell

Comment by Rachel Davies, Nottingham

IN COMICS INTERNATIONAL recently, we have seen a lot of dissention over the comics industry. Two recent *Comment* features, by Phil Hall and Warren Zajac had completely different arguments, yet their tone was remarkably similar.

Recently, I first saw Paddy Chayevski's marvellous film *Network*, aired on BBC1. The main protagonist, one Howard Beale (played superbly by the late Peter Finch) coined a wonderful phrase, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more". I got the impression that both Hall and Zajac were saying this, if not with the same conviction.

Internal squabbling has always been the adrenalin of the industry - fandom is alive and kicking and living in its biggest ever audience,

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saying what it thinks, and therefore getting action and reaction from every sector of comicdom.

Excellent reviewer Skinny Melink says, "Rip up your **Youngblood** #1 and send it back to Image". Don't just laugh at him, do it. And not just **Youngblood**, send all the trash, the unsaleable junk, the hyped-to-no-conclusion crossovers and the inferior dross back to the publisher in pieces, with a note saying why; tell them what Howard Beale told the world in *Network*.

One can only hope that Marvel, DC, Image, Dark Horse, Valiant et al read **Comics International** (fools if they don't): raised voices and protests only work if they are expressed in unity. **Comics International** provides space for this new, revitalised fandom to air its conscience, vent its spleen and express its concern - together.

As patrons of a business which stretches back into the last century, we - above the Americans - should always be more critical; it's in our nature. The standard of *Comment* here far exceeds anything the US has *ever* put out. Yet there is no recognisable American audience. Are we destined always to play the role of the articulate minority?

The comics industry is a funny thing, so much fragile infrastructure in a constant flux, yet, like a spider's web, it will always be mended. Britain is awakening - at last - from its apathy, and beginning to speak out. We have rediscovered how to talk to each other.

Phil Hall thinks that fandom doesn't exist any more. Look again, Phil, it's all around you. How often do people talk to you at comics marts. I'm sure that when Mike Kidson, Andrew Harvey, Peter Phillips or Skinny Melink are at marts and conventions, they are all talked to with great enthusiasm.

The sub-culture heroes of the comics industry: the natural replacements of yesterday's dream (your editor, D. G. Skinn, being an exception).

Comics have always been forward thinking, while the fans tend to be retrospective. Open your eyes: fandom's back and it means business.

Any sign of those adult comics yet?

Comment by Patrick Brown, Belfast

WHEN I HAD my Comment, *"Whatever happened to adult comics?"* published (**Comics International** #26) in which I suggested separating adult comics from juvenile titles by selling them in different shops, I was expecting some reaction.

But I think that Fabio Barbieri's reply showed that he has got a particularly unshakeable grip of the wrong end of the stick (*Comment*, **Comics International** #27).

It's not me who wants comics to be forced into a ghetto: they're already in one. And I think that the only way out of it is to focus on broadening the range of material beyond the current super-hero dominated output.

Perhaps Fabio, who is over 30 years old and reads super-hero comics, is upset at my assertion that most people think super-heroes are childish, and that by implication, so do I.

What I was saying was that as a new reader of comics at the age of 20 I certainly *did* think that super-heroes were childish. While I can see that they do have a certain charm, I still think that their appeal to adults is largely nostalgic, just like *Star Trek* or *The Magic Roundabout*. All very pleasant, but if this is the public face of comics, it becomes very difficult to make people aware of the adult material that is now being produced.

Comic shops, like those for models or fantasy role-playing games, are very forbidding to the non-enthusiast. I once asked a friend to go to a comic shop to pick up something for me, and he told me afterwards how embarrassed he felt just going into the place. A comic like **Skidmarks** or **Hate** would appeal to the general public beyond the fan fraternity, if only they didn't have to go into what is perceived as a super-hero shop before they could even learn of their existence.

What I was advocating in my last Comment was to take these comics out to the people who would like them - if they knew about them - not for the people who already do like them to form an exclusive little clique. Maybe the methods I suggested wouldn't work. Alex Stockton (*Letters*, **Comics International** #27) turned one of my ideas - diversification into other popular artforms - on its head (comics in record, book and video shops) and improved it no end.

I hope that I've clarified my position a bit. It was certainly not my intention to suggest that super-hero comics were beneath my contempt, I hope that most people didn't get that impression. All I was saying was that the dominance of super-heroes creates an unhelpful public perception of comics as a storytelling medium.

Now, I'd like to take Fabio to task over a few points. Glossing over the undisguised vitriol of his tone, I have to say that I was rather amused at the way he first poured scorn on me for supposedly boasting of my own maturity, before announcing smugly that he's 10 years older than me. And where did I, anywhere in my Comment, "condemn" anyone, let alone the creators he mentioned?

As to his question about how many readers of mature comics there are in Belfast: using the example of the two titles he compared, the manager of my local comic shop (*Dark Horizons*, Chichester Street, Belfast - end of plug) assures me that he comfortably sells more copies of **Hate** than he does of **Excalibur**. In fact, **Hate** sells out within days of arriving, and he is continually increasing his order, whereas **Excalibur** just sits on the shelves.

Perhaps that says something about the comic readers in Belfast, perhaps not. ●

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Key to abbreviations used:
1 & 2 + 3 = Writer & penciller + inker
sqbd = perfect bound; squared spine; without staples
b&w = black & white content
pc = part-colour content
hbk = hardback (book) edition
tpbk = trade paperback, squarebound
Xpg = X number of interior pages
V = violence; N = nudity; S = sex

SHIPPING:
FEBRUARY '93

All comics are 32 page colour titles unless stated otherwise

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

<> **Cerebus 167** (Sim & Gerhard) *Mothers and Daughters Book 2: Women, Part 5* (of 12) The ascension causes much apprehension in the upper and lower cities of lest. But the consideration of such lofty problems is way beyond Cerebus, who muses over the problem of whether to voluntarily give himself up to the occupying government or to simply spend the rest of his life in a bar. b&w $2.25

AC COMICS

<> **Femforce 58** (Black & Ayers, Heike + Hunt) New Ms Victory Jennifer Burke's life is no bed of roses. With the loss of both her son and her husband, she's susceptible to the inveigling General Gordon's plans for the Sentinels of Justice, and her involvement with them inevitably leads her into conflict with Paragon. $2.75

<> **Good Art Quarterly 11** (Heike & Gorby) *Sugarcakes* sees down and out Yankee Girl embroiled with an unsuccessful breakfast food company. Golden Age backing section spotlights Phantom Lady and Sky Gal. pc 52pg $3.95

<> **Paragon: Dark Apocalypse 1** (of 4; Black, Nadeau & Heike + Hunt) In a cross-over with the **Femforce** series, the former Captain Paragon (back in his old Sentienels costume) is captured by Ms Victory. Secondary plot-line sees Dr Clark Gibson, head of the Colorado Project, searching for some hero or other to protect him against the Black Commando - a rogue government agent. $2.95

<> **Paragon: Dark Apocalypse 2** (of 4; Black, Nadeau & Heike + Hunt) Paragon is returned to a distasteful life in civvy street, but soon gets a job offer when Gibson (having failed to find any other hero to do the job for him) commissions him to take on the Black Commando. This, of course, will lead him to another confrontation with Ms Victory... $2.95

ADVENTURE

<> **Demon's Tails 2** (of 4; Mann & Pelletier + Florimonte) **Cat and Mouse** spin-off series continues. The Champion flies in from Chicago, seemingly looking for Cat and Mouse, but in fact on an altogether different mission. b&w $2.50

<> **Monsters From Outer Space 3** (of 3; Jones & Jacobs + Yap) Space flees down a tunnel when there is another attack from alien ships - and pops up in a base entirely populated by what appear to be clones of himself. b&w $2.50

<> **Pendulum 4** (of 4; Drury & Slampyak) Final issue. Dr Row finally catches up with Darius Beckett, the insane doctor responsible for hiding the mutated immortality serum in a New York apartment building. b&w $2.50

<> **Planet of the Apes: Forbidden Zone 3** (of 4; Cunningham & Kirk) Mutant and human armies prepare themselves for what promises to be a violent and bloody battle on Primacy. b&w $2.50

<> **Velvet 2** (of 4; Chritton & Runyan) Having been framed for murder, Garrison Garrote is faced with two termination-bound cops. But all is well: Velvet comes to his rescue after finding a microdisk at a dead friend's home which fingers him as the next victim... b&w $2.50

ARCHIE COMICS

<> **Archie 411** $1.25
<> **Archie & Friends 4** $1.25
<> **Archie's Double Digest 65** $2.50
<> **Betty & Veronica 63** $1.25
<> **Betty & Veronica Digest 61** $1.50
<> **Jughead 45** $1.25
<> **Jughead's Double Digest 17** $2.50
<> **Laugh Digest 107** $1.50
<> **Sonic the Hedgehog 3** $1.25
<> **TMNTurtles Adventures 44** $1.25
<> **TMNT Presents: April O'Neil - The May East Saga 2** $1.25
<> **Wild West C.O.WBoys of Moo Mesa 2 - The Series** $1.25

CALIBER PRESS

<> **Angryman 3** (Iconografix imprint; Haven). Rescheduled. The crazed one is convinced that the world's biggest comics company is trying to steal his brain (why they would need his brains is the point here, surely). Ned and Talia - sensible people - are having nothing to do with it at all, and get away from him as quickly as possible. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Arthur, King of Britain 2** (Tome imprint; Fraley) For those of us who missed it in school, books and movies, here it is. This issue, Arthur drives out the Saxons and meets Guinevere, Gawain and Mordred. b&w $2.95

<> **Berzerker 1** (of 5; Gauntlet imprint; Carlson & Medina + S. Adams) *Mechanised Death.* Alexander Kirk, "chrononaut", is translocated into a future where - you guessed it - the world has been taken over by sentient machines. Kirk's body is sent to the "body banks" for a quick makeover, and he re-emerges as a cyber-warrior, Berzerker. Also includes a pin-up gallery featuring work by Larsen, Liefeld and Medina, plus a preview of *Knight Watchmen.* b&w

<> **Deadworld Archives 4** (Locke) *Funeral for a Friend.* Reprint. b&w $2.50

<> **The Fall 1** (A. Smith & Hamlin) Paranoid futuristic horror story, in which franchised mental institutions have effectively assumed governmental control of the world. And a self-made messiah targets any young people who are not already under the institutions' thumb for threats - with violence. b&w $2.95

<> **Marauder 1** (of 4; Silverline Studios, Gauntlet imprint; S. Williams & Rennick + Napolitano) Rescheduled. No sooner have we been introduced to thieves Kirk Connel and Lumley Liago than Lumley loses Kirk during a skirmish with rival thieves. But his grief is soon overcome when he spots Jasmine Stowe, a computer whizz in thrall to Judas Rathbone (who, incidentally, was the leader of the gang responsible for Liago's death). The Marauder suddenly gets a convenient twinge of conscience, and decides that he must save Stowe from Rathbone's machinations. b&w $2.50

<> **The Saga of the Realm 5** (Davis) Introducing Laetha Kazan, devilish Thoragg and the devious Lady Sandra. b&w $2.50

<> **The Scary Book 3** (of 4; Williams & Willhite + Schaefer) Rescheduled. PI Chandler (who can't do anything without narrating his actions as if reading a script) blunders into plagues, the Sorcerer's Society and Herr Tristain's lair. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Sinergy 1** (of 5; Garrett & various) Adaptation of Dante's Inferno, with contributions from Locke, Davis, Holewzcynski, Lark and Galen. Regular and deluxe formats. b&w $2.95/$5.95

<> **U.N. Force 2** (Gauntlet imprint; Carpenter & Kowalski + Bradford) Despite the fact that they've only just formed a team, the heroes of the UN Force are already fighting an internecine war above New York city. This serves as a backdrop for the introduction of their leader, General Hammer, and a flashback (?) story about the team's adventures during the American invasion of Panama. $2.95

<> **Very Vicky 1** (Iconografix imprint; Christy) Rescheduled. Cosmopolitan metropolitan Vicky from NY city moves to the sun belt, "the cutting edge to nowhere". Somehow, she's got to come to terms with sunburn, ageing hippies who think that they're artists and cheap beer... Mature readers. b&w $2.50

COMICO

<> **Strike Force America Special Edition 1** (DeVries & Clark + S. Williams) The Force's battle with the Black Dog has terrible repercussions for the team. With the loss of a member and its credibility imperilled, the Strike Force faces a grim future. Available in regular and deluxe editions (A and B) Edition A includes a free poster (Clark/Williams). $2.50/$4.95

DARK HORSE

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 2ND

<> **Aliens: Colonial Marines 2** (of 12; Warner & Akins + Guinan) Carmen Vasquez wants to follow in her sister's footsteps and so joins the corps. But she finds it difficult coming to terms with the possibility of her nightmare coming to life - being attacked by aliens, naturally - and so is virtually immobilised by fear. Cover: Mentor. $2.50

<> **Aliens: Hive** (tpbk; Prosser & K. Jones) Collects the four-issue series. Cover: Dorman. 112pg $13.95

<> **Caravan Kidd 8** (Manabe) Babo and crew take flight and turn up in his home-town, where they seek protection in Babo's family home. Once installed there, Babo plans to repair his reputation... b&w $2.50

<> **Cheval Noir 39** Features *In search of Peter Pan* (Cosey); *Rork: Starlight*, chapter 4 (Andreas) and *Conspiracy Theory* (Elliot). Cover: Allred. Mature readers. b&w $2.95

<> **Classic Star Wars 7** (Goodwin & Williamson) Reformated reprint. Luke and co., having escaped from the unpleasant Dr Arakkus, make their way back home to the Rebel base. But finding their home under attack from Imperial forces they flee to the planet Aquaris: an unknown territory with an unknown host... $2.50

<> **Dark Horse Presents 71** (of 10) Featuring *The Madwoman of the Sacred Heart 2* (of 7; Jodorowsky & Moebius) and *Bullshit* (Campbell). Cover: Bisley. Adult, N, S. b&w $2.25

<> **Grendel: War Child 7** (of 10; Wagner & McEown + Mireault) With his guardian, Grendel having been kidnapped, Jupiter Assante is abducted once *again*, this time by a bunch of vampires. Back at Assante's home, the Dowager-Khan's power is at last being threatened - but from an unexpected quarter. Cover: Bisley. Adult, N, S. $2.50

<> **Next Men 12** (Byrne) While Danny - now in Florida - finds out who his father really is, the Next Men's Russian saga draws towards an explosive finale. Mature readers. $2.50

<> **Nexus: Alien Justice 3** (of 3; Baron & Rude + G. Martin) Merk is beside himself with rage when his alien Nexi prove inadequate to the task of fighting Nexus. Just how out to lunch Merk is becomes apparent with his next move, and Horatio and crew realise that, if they want any peace or security, they're going to have to rub Merk out. It's just a matter of *how* to do it. Cover: Rude. 48pg $3.95

<> **Predator: Race War 1** (Vachss & Stradley, Raskin + Wiacek) Continuing a storyline from **Dark Horse Presents**, this first of a four-issue mini-series opens with the Predator's arrival at the most challenging hunting ground on Earth, the Paloverde State Penitentiary in Arizona. Cover: Dorman. Mature readers. $2.50

<> **Ring of Roses 4** (of 4; Petrou & Watkis) Apocalyptic, final issue of the series sees the battle for the possession of England reaching a climax: the Pope is dead, religious extremists threaten to take over the Rosy Cross and the partnership between Church and State, consequently, collapses. b&w $2.50

<> **The Venus Wars II 9** (Yasuhiko) Desperate to somehow come to terms with Rado, Mathew and co. hi-jack a helicopter: it dawns on them eventually that the thing needs to be piloted, and with air-bound, termination obsessed opponents on the

attack, it's going to be *no* fun at all. b&w 40pg $2.75

<> **The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles 12** (Barry & Purcell + Mushynsky) Indy is taken seriously ill (probably something to do with all that foreign food). When his condition worsens, his mother is uncertain as to whether she should trust the local Chinese medicine men or wait for the missionary doctor to appear... $2.50

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 16TH

<> **Aliens: Tribes** (gn; Bissette & Dorman) Illustrated prose story, paperback edition. Cover: Dorman. 72pg $11.95

<> **Concrete: Complete Short Stories 1985-1989** (tpbk; Chadwick) Collected from **Dark Horse Presents**, with an introduction by Archie Goodwin. b&w 112pg $13.95

<> **Dark Horse Comics 7** Features *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi 1* (of 3; Veitch & Johnston); *Robocop: Invasions 2* (Grant & Gnazzo + Patterson); *Mad Dogs* (Arcudi & Dimitt + Warner) and *Predator: Blood Feud 4* (of 4; Barrett Jr & Duranona). $2.50

<> **Herbie 6** (O'Shea & Whitney) Reprinted adventures of the Fat Fury. $2.50

<> **Version 1.3** (Sakaguchi) Hap and Eiko confront the biomechanical beast which took Eiko's father away and, having suppressed it, try to communicate with it. Meanwhile, the two protagonists' endeavours are being carefully monitored by spies from the sinister Black Echo organisation. b&w $2.50

<> **Virus 2** (of 4; Pfarrer & Cobb + Palmiotti) The salvage crew from The Elektra are now stranded, seemingly without any hope of rescue, aboard the Chinese spy ship. And with the onboard computer running amok, there's no place to hide... Mature readers. $2.50

<> **Terminal Point 1** (of 3; Zick) Futuristic fantasy. The Terminus Agency has discovered that all realities - regardless of space or time - are intersected by the Web. From this, it's a short imaginative leap for it to envisage total control of *everything* - it seems that global domination just isn't enough any more... The Web itself is controlled by intersecting nodes, and Terminus despatch biomechanical, kamikaze agents to take over these junctions at any cost. But there's just one problem: one of the agents, Pilot, is actually self-willed, and has a multifunctional, intelligent transporter, Equus, to help him foil the Agency's plans. $2.50

DC COMICS

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 9TH

<> **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 11** (Grant & Giarrano) Kadaver, an embittered, crazed ghoul is infected with the desire to die, and when he wants the entire population of Gotham to share his fate, Batman is forced to intervene. The question is, will he wearing surgical gloves when he deals with his corpse-like antagonist? Cover: Stelfreeze. $1.75

<> **Death: The High Cost of Living 2** (Vertigo imprint; of 3; Gaiman & Bachalo + Buckingham) Sexton and Didi take some time out to go to a club. But their search for *good fun* leads them into the clutches of the Eremite. Cover: McKean. Mature readers. $1.95

<> **Deathstroke, The Terminator 21** (S. Grant & Erwin + Blyberg) **Punisher** writer Steven Grant turns up for a five-issue stint on this post *Nuclear Winter* storyline, which opens with Wilson's return to the States, where he finds himself declared persona non grata. Cover: Zeck. $1.75

<> **Flash 75** (Waid & LaRoque + Richardson) Wally West's title of the fastest creature on earth is undermined when the Silver Age blonde scientist makes a return appearance... just in time to help his two namesakes quell an outbreak of mob violence. $1.25

<> **Green Lantern: Mosaic 11** (G. Jones & Byrd + Floyd) John's back on Earth once more, and finally discovers the connection between the Mosaic, his parents and his murdered grandparents. $1.25

<> **Legionnaires 1** (T, M Bierbaum & Sprouse + Story) First of a new ongoing series opens in the year 2995. The Earth and Moon are destroyed and in a physics-defying sleight of hand, their cities still hang in space... But that doesn't provide any obstacle for the 20 Legionnaires, who set about settling the unrest which plagues the floating metropoli. Backing feature is *A Guide to the 30th Century*, detailing the Legionnaires' histories. $1.25

<> **Peter Canon: Thunderbolt 8** (Collins and Marzan, Jr) Thunderbolt flexes his newly discovered powers as he sets off on a mission to rescue the kidnapped Cairo DeFrey - who has a few of her own secrets to reveal. $1.25

<> **Sandman Mystery Theatre 1** (M. Wagner & G. Davis) First of this ongoing series sees the Golden Age Sandman, Wesley Dodds, hot on the trail of the serial killer with a taste for young socialites, the Tarantula. Mature readers. $1.95

<> **Shade, The Changing Man 34** (Vertigo; Milligan & Bachalo, Dillon + Bryant) Shade's trapped in the body of a psycho once again - and desperate to escape so that he can find out what's happened to Kathy, who has disappeared in mysterious circumstances. Mature readers. $1.75

<> **The Spectre 5** (Ostrander & Mandrake) The Spectre takes an investigation beyond the mortal constraints of the grave when he helps the police to find out where a kidnap victim is hidden after her abductors die in a car crash. Cover: Bolland. $1.75

<> **Star Trek 45** (Wilson & R. Davis + Starr) Time travelling Trelane paints Kirk into a corner and the Enterprise's captain is forced to subject himself to the pirate's dangerous experiments... $1.75

<> **Stanley & his Monster 3** (Foglio and Fiala) Uh-oh, Stanley's big secret's out: his mom and dad know about his monster. As if that were not bad enough, Stanley now finds that the "forces of Hell" are knocking at the Dover's door, come to claim the monster for themselves. $1.50

<> **Valor 6** (Fleming & Moore + Scott) The gassy hero's rescue team is on its way, but the Blasters will have to steam through Kanjar Ro's sister's cyborg army before they can complete their mission. $1.25

<> **Wonder Woman 73** (Messner-Loebs & Moder) Diana's aware that finding the "disappeared" Paradise Island might well be down to her, but just now she's more than a little preoccupied with the task of finding a *job*. Cover: Bolland. $1.25

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 16TH

<> **Batman 491** (Moench & Aparo) First part of a storyline concluding in issue 500 of the title. Bane sets the cat among the pigeons when he frees all the inmates of Arkham Asylum - in what could only be a homage to the Fall of the Bastille - or an attempt to fox Batman. $1.25

<> **Black Canary 4** (Byam & VonEeden + B. Smith) Black Canary's inevitably dragged into the fray when Whorrsman marks his return to action with a little light destruction in the city... $1.75

<> **Danger Trail 1** (Wein & Infantino +

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McLaughlin) First of an ongoing series introduces "America's no. 1 spy", King Faraday. His debut - a Russian mission - goes awry, leaving him exposed to the machinations of some of the most ruthless players in international politics. Cover: Gulacy. $1.50

<> **The Demon 34** (Grant & Hedden + McWeeney) *The Eternity Quest, Part 1* (of 4). The ubiquitous Lobo and his blood brother, Etrigan, steam off to the netherworld to claim Harry the Pillow's soul. But they're stymied when they find the Demon's dad in possession... $1.75

<> **Eclipso 6** (Giffen & Fleming, McDonnell + Kryssing) Eclipso's plans for world domination develop uninterrupted as Bruce Gordon's Strike Force struggle to escape from the monolithic monster's South American lair. $1.25

<> **Green Arrow: The Wonder Year 3** (of 4; Grell & Morrow) The presidential candidate is murdered, and Green Arrow's got Oliver Queen's girlfriend down as the assassin... $1.75

<> **The Hacker Files 9** (of 12; Shiner & Sutton + Buckingham) *Working Class Hero, Part 3* (of 4). Yoshio and Hacker fall neatly into Digitronix's trap, set in the Chinese plant. Hacker is distraught when he realises exactly what Digitronix's plans are, and will stop at nothing to achieve escape - and save the world... Cover: Canty. $1.95

<> **Hammerlocke 8** (of 9; Joyner & Sprouse + Wilson) The game's up for Hammerlocke, as he and Phade fight their last battle with the Iron Spider for the Olympus Starbridge - and Earth. $1.75

<> **Hellblazer 64** (Vertigo; Ennis & Dillon) *Fear & Loathing, Part 1* (of 3). Dangerous territory for Constantine as he launches an assault on the archangel Gabriel, who, it transpires, has connections with a violent racist organisation. Cover: Fabry. Mature readers. $1.75

<> **Justice League of America 73** (Jurgens & Burchett) The contemporary JLA find themselves going head-to-head with the original JLA... $1.25

<> **Legion of Super-Heroes 42** (T. & M. Bierbaum, McCraw, Immonen + Boyd) Things look pretty hopeless for the Legion when the key members are kidnapped by a powerful new adversary - only Luornu remains free. But the Legion's notions about Duo Damsel (Luornu) are about to be overturned, because it's she who finally comes to the rescue... $1.75

<> **The New Titans 96** (L. Simonson & Jiminez + McCarthy) Rescheduled. Cyborg's not such a loose cannon as he seems to be - especially as his programme dictates that he should detonate in the immediate vicinity of President Yeltsin. Anna Zametov and the newly-empowered Red Star take on the task of preventing the disaster. Cover: Jiminez. $1.75

<> **Sandman 48** (Vertigo; Gaiman & J. Thompson + Locke) Embarrassing skeletons tumble out of the Endless closet as Dream, Destruction and Delirium lead a powwow on matters relating to the family. Mature readers. $1.75

<> **Star Trek: The Next Generation - The Star Lost** (Friedman & Krause + Marcos) Collects issues 20-24, with an introduction by producer Ron Moore. Cover: Palmer. 144pg $14.95

<> **Superman Gallery 1** (various) Collection of cover and pin-up work by Superman artists, with contributions by Miller, McFarlane, Adams, Byrne, Rude, Perez, Zeck, Moebius, Ordway, Jurgens, Kirby, Shuster, Swan, Boring and Schaffenberger. Cover: Walt Simonson. 32pg $2.95

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 23RD

<> **Animal Man 58** (Vertigo; Delano & Higgins) *Recreation, Part 2* (of 3). Testing time for Animal Man's wife, Ellen, when she finds herself alone and broke in the wasteland of New York city. Mature readers. $1.75

<> **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 44** (S. Grant & McManus) *Turf, Part 1* (of 2). Batman and Jim Gordon are still young men when they investigate this case. Gotham's racial minorities are being terrorized by the White Night, a Ku Klux Klanalike club of white supremacists. But things get uncomfortable for both of them when Batman discovers that there are links between the White Night and Gotham's police force. $1.75

<> **The Black Condor 11** (Augustyn & Morales + Space) An altercation between the Black Condor and a reporter produces the goods on the hero's origins - provided by his friend, the forest ranger. $1.25

<> **Enigma 2** (of 8; Vertigo; Milligan & Fegredo) Michael realises that the Enigma is a character from a childhood comic book just as he is about to die... and as the Enigma himself becomes the serial killer's next target. Mature readers. $2.50

<> **Green Lantern 38** (G. Jones & Bright + Tanghal) Jordan seems fixated by his former adversary Olivia Reynolds, but in fact a malevolent *planet* is controlling Reynolds herself... and the animate lump of matter's eventual target turns out to be Adam Strange's daughter, at present safely installed on Rann. $1.25

<> **Hardware 1** (Milestone imprint; McDuffie & Cowan + Palmiotti) Milestone's diverse creative team opens its first super-hero storyline with Curt Metcalf, a successful and wealthy engineer, discovering that the corporation that paid for his education and which currently employs him is rotten with corruption. Striving to come to terms with the enormity of this revelation, Metcalf tools himself up with a panoply of weapons, vowing that he'll deal with he corporation on his own terms, now... Available in direct and news trade editions, the former including a free poster, profile, trading card and puzzle pieces. $2.95/$1.50

<> **L.E.G.I.O.N. '93 51** (A. Grant & Kitson + Alcatena) *Desert Island Blues* sees Telepath desperately seeking ways to entertain Lobo, who works up a serious head of steam when he and Telepath are stranded on a barren planet with a cannibalistic prisoner. Telepath finally hits on the idea of telling Lobo a story, which, it transpires, is the poignant tale of his own secret origin. $1.75

<> **Showcase '93 4** (of 12; various) Anthology title, featuring *Catwoman, Part 4* (of 4; Moench & Hannigan + Fredericks); *Blue Devil, Part 4* (of 6; Mishkin & Cohn, Moriarty + Davis) and *The Haunting of Castle Markov, Part 1* (of 2; Barr & Hitch + J. Beatty). Cover: Golden. 48pg $1.95

<> **Star Trek: The Next Generation 45** (Friedman & Ryan, Frazier + Marcos) The VISOR surgical team gathers for an operation that will, inevitably, have far-reaching implications. $1.75

<> **Swamp Thing 130** (Vertigo; Collins & Eaton + DeMulder) *Swamp Fever, Part 2* (of 2). While Abby finds love in the watery wilderness and Doctor Polygon gets bloody hands, Swamp Thing's psyche is still confused by hallucinogens in the water-borne pollutants. It's enough to put anyone off drugs, kids: just say no to mashland. Includes free Kelley Jones poster. Mature readers. $1.75

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<> **Team Titans 7** (Wolfman & Nichols + Blyberg) Rescheduled. Nightwing swings into view as the Titans are haunted by visions of future conundrums. $1.75

SHIPPING MARCH 2ND

<> **The Batman Adventures 7** (Puckett & Parobeck + Burchett) TV animation adaptation continues, as Killer Croc meets his match in the form of the beefcake hired by one of Batman's chief antagonists $1.25

<> **Batman: Night Cries** (gn; Goodwin & S. Hampton) Paperback edition of the graphic novel. Child abusers being targeted by a killer on the loose in Gotham, and during the investigation, Commissioner Gordon is forced to come to terms with his own painful past as an abused child. Cover: Hampton. 96pg $12.95

<> **The Darkstars 7** (Friedman & Charest + Hanna) The Syndicate catches the Darkstars on the hop as it launches an attack from "the galaxy's most feared assassin", K'llash. In the resulting furore, a Darkstar is killed... $1.75

<> **Green Arrow 732** (Grell & Pensa) The Green Arrow flies to the rescue of a 'Nam vet. Elsewhere, a US congressman looks on as a powerful crime lord fights for his life... Cover: Grell. $1.75

<> **Guy Gardner 7** (G. Jones & Jacobs, Staton + Beatty) Gardner is a little too fast off the mark when he races Jordan to confront Goldface - who promptly grabs his ring, seeing in it, of course, a means to achieve world domination. $1.25

<> **Mercy 1** (Vertigo; DeMatteis & P. Johnson) One-shot, focusing on the revelations experienced by Joshua Rose as he lies in a coma waiting for death. The God-like "spiritual entity", Mercy, shows Rose a very different view of the universe and of his place in it... Mature readers. 64pg $1.25

EC COMICS

Chronological colour reprinting by Cochran of the 1950s horror and sf classics

<> **Two-Fisted Tales 3** Featuring *Massacred* (Severin & Elder); *Devils in Baggy Pants* (Wood); *Army Revolver* (Davis) and *Pirate Gold* (Kurtzman). First published in April, 1952. $1.50

<> **Vault of Horror 3** Featuring *Voodoo Vengeance* (Craig); *Werewolf* (Wood); *Rats Have Sharp Teeth* (Ingels) and *The Strange Couple* (Feldstein). First published in September, 1950. $1.50

<> **Weird Fantasy 3** Featuring *Martian Infiltration* (Feldstein); *Henry and His... Goon Child* (Kurtzman); *I Died Tomorrow* (Kamen) and *Dark Side of the Moon* (Wood). First pub. October, 1950 $1.50

ECLIPSE COMICS

<> **Blandman 1** (Parody imprint; Maus & Hanon) by + Clark) *If It's Written by a Brit, It Has to Be Good!* Far be it from us to disagree... b&w $2.50

<> **Illegal Aliens 1** (Parody imprint; McElroy & Hanon + Maus) Frankenstein, Dracula and crew work up a little sweat eradicating modern demons. b&w $2.50

<> **Loco vs Pulverine 1** (Parody imprint; Donnelly & Yap) Comics come under fire again, with Lobo and Wolverine clones in conflict... b&w $2.99

<> **Spitting Image 1** (Parody imprint; Schiller & Yap) Marble Universe character, Refrigerator Magneto's worried about his image - he's being drawn by hacks - and joins with Snaggletooth and Veinom to discover what's happened to the *real* creators. b&w $2.50

<> **X-Farce 1** (Parody imprint; Chin & Maus + Hanon) Angst-ridden super-hysteric spoof. b&w $2.50

ETERNITY

<> **Robotech: Invid War 10** (Spangler & Eldred) Kauffman and Nathan Brill discover the whereabouts of the Reverend Brill's son, Rand. When Brill is killed in a mech attack, Captain Nobutu returns with news of a new Invid weapon, the Red Moon. b&w $2.50

<> **Robotech: The Sentinels Book II 18** (Mason & Waltrip) Karbarra has been restored to its people and the Invids defeated... but not silenced, as Burak finds out to his cost. b&w $2.50

FANTACO

<> **The Collector 1** News on the media and "collectibles" - comics, trading cards, models, etc. Magazine format. b&w $4.95

FANTAGRAPHICS

<> **The Bradleys** (Bagge) Collects the *Bradleys* storyline from **Neat Stuff** 1-15. Backing strips include *Brotherly Love, Hippy House, You're Not the Boss of Me!, Mom Power, Rock 'n' Roll Refugee* and *Merry ****ing Christmas.* Cover: Bagge. Mature readers. b&w 168pg $17.95

<> **The Comics Journal 157** Includes an interview with *Zippy the Pinhead* creator, Bill Griffith, plus CJ's first readership survey with the regular columns, reviews and features. Mature readers. Magazine. $4.95

<> **Flesh, Love & Rockets** (Gilbert Hernandez) *The Complete Love & Rockets Book Ten.* Collects storyline from **Love & Rockets 31-39**. Available in paperback, hardback and deluxe editions, 9" format. Mature readers. b&w $11.95/$35.00/$39.95

<> **Idiotland 1** (Allen & Lieb and various) Features *Excessive Accessorizing, Morties, Hillbilly Holiday, Seafood Manor, The Undelicious* and *Paranoid Fat.* Mature readers. b&w $2.95

<> **Junkwaffel vol 1** (Bode) Collection of work from the science fiction creator, featuring *Sunspot, Machines* and *Zooks.* Mature readers. 80pg pc $12.95

<> **Naughty Bits 8** (Gregory) Features part two of *The Hippie Bitch Gets Knocked Up.* Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.50

<> **Real Stuff 12** (Gregory) Features contributions from Hoseley, Williams, Chackovwicz, Friedrich and Dickinson. Mature readers. b&w 24pg $2.50

<> **Usagi Yojimbo 38** (Sakai) *The Last Ino Story* sees Yojimbo and Gen taking refuge with Fujiko, who's nursing her dying lover, Zato-Ino in a desolate wayside hut. $2.25

<> **Zoot 2** (Langridge) Features *The Journey Halfway, Would You Like to Swing on a Star, What Separates Humans From Animals, Calling Claire* and *Ignatz: Dumb Stories For Dumb People.* Mature readers. b&w $2.50

HARVEY

<> **Baby Huey 7**	$1.25
<> **Casper Enchanted Tales Dgst 4**	$1.75
<> **Casper Giant Size 3**	$2.25
<> **The Flintstones 3**	$1.25
<> **Hanna-Barbera Big Book 1**	$1.95
<> **Hot Stuff Big Book 2**	$1.95
<> **Little Dot 3**	$1.25
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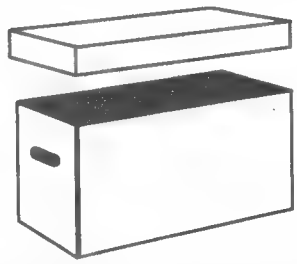
<> **Woody Woodpecker 8**	$1.25
<> **Yogi Bear 3**	$1.25

IMAGE COMICS

<> **Darker Image 2** (anthology) Image's "new venture" title. Features *Bloodwulf* (Liefeld); *The Maxx* (Kieth) and *Deathblow* (Lee). 24pg $2.50

COMIC COLLECTION PROTECTION



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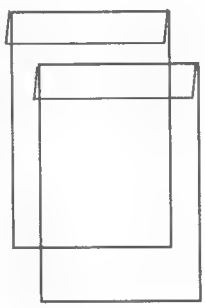

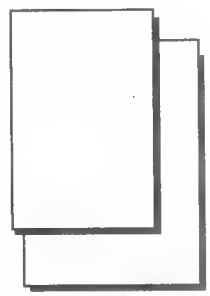

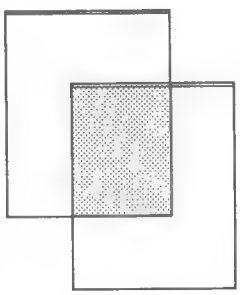

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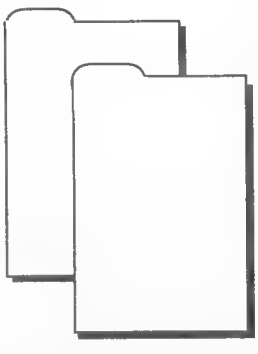

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<> **Image Swimsuit Special 1** (various) Good to see Image maintaining the good ol' boys' publishing traditions: features contributions from Lee, Silvestri, Portacio, Chiodo, Williams, Clark, Altstaetter and Manabat. Cover: Lee and Silvestri. $1.95
<> **Pitt 4** (Keown and Hotton) Interstellar bounty hunters gain a strategic advantage over Pitt. Features Spawn. $1.95
<> **Spawn 10** (McFarlane and Sim) **Cerebus** creator, Dave Sim is McFarlane's latest guest, with one of the most unusual cross-over stories ever... Includes a free Bloodwulf poster by Liefeld. $1.95
<> **Supreme 6** (Liefeld and Murray) A new super-team, the Star Guard, takes to the air when Supreme narrowly avoids defeat at the hands of Khrome. $1.95
<> **Wildstar: Sky Zero 2** (of 4; Gordon & Ordway) Wildstar is bewildered and beleaguered as he holds the field in two simultaneous conflicts: with the US Army and with the Los Angels (?). $1.95
<> **Stormwatch 1** (Choi, Clark, Altstaetter & Lee) First of a new three-part mini-series, set in a post Cold War world in which Stormwatch are detailed to prevent the New World Order becoming the Brave New World. First up is a mission for Stormwatch leader Battalion to Sarajevo. Having succeeded in sorting things out in former Yugoslavia (in what must be one of the most naive storylines in comics yet) Battalion finds that things aren't all that cosy back in the States... $1.95

INNOVATION

<> **Beauty and the Beast 2** (adaptation; Campiti & Wood + Deodato) Based on the CBS TV series of the same name. Catherine Chandler - under Vincent's lionhearted, watchful eye - recovers from her wounds in his underground lair. $2.50
<> **Dark Shadows Book Two 1** (of 4; Thompson & Pimentel) Young mystic Nathan is endowed with the ability to read the mind of anyone with whom he comes into physical contact, and a bizarre world of secret histories opens up when he touches his neighbourhood friends. Cover: Gomez. Mature readers. $2.50
<> **Lost in Space: Project Robinson 1** (of 2; Campiti & Key + Glines) *It's a Little Secret, Just the Robinson's Affair* tells the story of Maureen Robinson, who has more than a few unexpected cards to play... Cover: Winston Taylor. $2.50
<> **Quantum Leap 12** (Rockwell & Deodato, Sr.) *Waiting* has Sam leaping into the body of an old timer who owns a "last chance" gas station on the edge of the Mojave Desert. But the reason why he's there remains hidden, and he and Al spend a lot of time hanging around and talking... Cover: Winston Taylor. $2.50
<> **Sherlock Holmes: Hound of the Baskervilles** (gn; adaptation: Powell, Oliffe and Pascoe. Cover: Steranko. 68pg $6.95

JADEMAN COMICS

<> **The Blood Sword 56** 68pg $1.95
<> **The Blood Sword Dynasty 43** $1.25
<> **Drunken Fist 56** 68pg $1.95
<> **Force of Buddha's Palm 56** $1.95
<> **Oriental Heroes 56** 68pg $1.95

KITCHEN SINK PRESS

<> **Austin Briggs' Flash Gordon Dailies vol 2** *The Battle for Freeland.* Alex Raymond's assistant Briggs took over the *Flash* strip during World War II. This issue covers news strips printed from December 1940 to August 1941. 112pg b&w $10.95
<> **Cherry 14** (Welz) *The Origin of Cherry.* Adult, N, S. b&w $2.95

MALIBU

<> **Dinosaurs For Hire 1** (Mason & Byrd + McCorkindale) Tom Mason's notorious reptilian heroes return in their own ongoing series. Teese, Archie and Lorenzo are joined by predatory alien Poacher and Revenue, the eponymous tax collector. Backing strip for the series is *L'il Dinosaurs For Hire.* $1.95
<> **Ex-Mutants 4** (Kanalz & Pelletier + Branch) Things go sadly awry when the Ex-Mutants are separated during their search for a new power source for Doctor Kildare. $1.95
<> **Necroscope 3** (of 5; Powell & Gross) Harry's vengeance-driven assassination of Viktor Shushkin was witnessed by Soviet ESPers - and consequently they now exert a powerful hold on him. For mature readers. $2.95
<> **The Protectors 6** (R. A. Jones & Derenick + Deodato) Mr Monday scores a significant and damaging victory over the Protectors, and they realise that they've got to have a terminal confrontation to get him out of their faces, once and for all. Direct and news trade editions. $1.95/$2.50
<> **Tarzan: The Beckoning 4** (of 7; Kure & Yeates) Punchy mulls over the means to entice the Waziri into his trap - but Tarzan is another problem altogether... $2.50

MARVEL COMICS

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 2ND

<> **Avengers West Coast 93** (Thomas & Ross + Dzon) Portrayed as the idiot organisation of the story, the UN's approval of Demonicus's Pacific island headquarters causes a few problems when the devilish doctor starts to harbour notions of world domination... $1.25
<> **Cage 13** (McLaurin & Benefiel + Ivy) Whoops, someone gets in Cage's way when he's searching for his dad. This could mean one thing and one thing only: the perp needs killing... $1.75
<> **Captain America 414** (Gruenwald & Levins + Bulanadi) The Captain makes a sojourn to the Savage Land - but this is no holiday - his mission is to stop AIM's mining of the precious and only too rare ore, vibranium. $1.25
<> **Crucible 2** (Herdling & Brasfield, S. Jones + Turner) Originally solicited as **Paragon**. Andy deals with two worrying scenarios - a mad scientist who is busily concocting a synthesised army for the old world domination purposes; meanwhile drug smugglers are smothering his father with threats. 48pg $4.99
<> **Daredevil 315** (Chichester & McDaniel + LaRosa) With guest appearances by Mr Fear and new *bad* woman, Shock. $1.25
<> **Darkhawk 26** (Fingeroth & T. Smith + Manley) Darkhawk risks invoking the time paradox when he travels back through history with the New Warriors and tries to change the course of events. $1.25
<> **Darkman 1** (of 6; Busiek & Saltares + Pepoy) First of a new six-issue series focusing on Darkman picks up the threads of his life as he searches for Durant, the man responsible for the ruin of his life. 48pg $3.95
<> **Life of Christ 2: The Easter Story** (Simonson & Wilshire + Anderson) $2.99
<> **Marvel Comics Presents 125** (various) Featuring *Typhoid Mary & Ghost Rider,*

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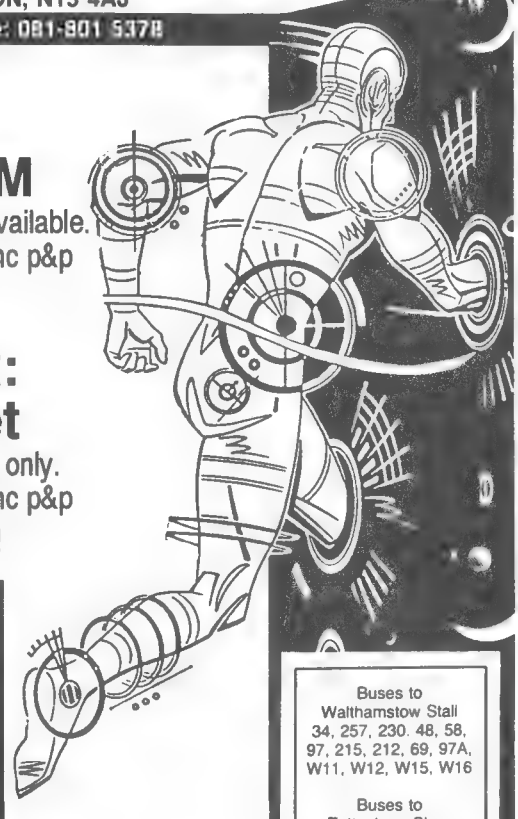

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Part 3 (Nocenti & Lightle); *She-Hulk, Adrenzon's Revenge, Part 3* (of 4; Converse & Hoover); *Iron Fist, Part 1* (Cavalieri & McManus) and *Wolverine, Part 3* (Lobdell & Jensen + Holdredge) Cover: Kieth. $1.50

<> **Namor 37** (Harras & Lee) The Atlantean civil war blossoms into a full-blown global conflict: it seem as if Namor's new armoured suit has arrived just on time... $2.00

<> **Nightstalkers 6** (Chichester & Garney + Palmer) Shiv casts a spell on an innocent man, transforming him into a murdering vigilante. It's the Nightstalker's task to put a stop to all this nonsense, and who better to deal with a crazed vigilante than another... that is, the Punisher. $1.75

<> **Nomad 12** (Nicieza & Oliffe + McKenna) An Aids centre in Texas (sounds like an oxymoron) is targeted by a psychotic radio "shock jock". Nomad takes time out to travel to Fort Worth and put a stop to his little game. $1.75

<> **The Original Ghost Rider 10** (Friedrich & Trimpe + Chiaramonte) Reprints **Marvel Spotlight** 12. Cover: Bair. $1.75

<> **Punisher Armory 6** (Brown) More Barbie-like fashion 'n' guns plates. Featured this season: Frank models some lovely new *scuba equipment*, and there's a chance to see the new-look *sniper equipment*... $2.00

<> **Punisher: The Ghosts of Innocents 2** (of 2; Starlin & Grindberg) Frank Castle's nemesis, the Kingpin, must be pursued, and the Punisher will go through hell and high water to get even in this conclusion to the two-part mini. "Bookshelf format"$5.95

<> **Ren & Stimpy 5** (adaptation: Slott & Kazaleh) Derived from Nickelodeon's *Ren & Stimpy* animated TV series, featuring the adventures of the bad-tempered Chihuahua (who, this episode, assume the personas of Croco-Men from Planet Zed. $1.75

<> **She-Hulk 50** (various) With John Byrne having left the title, this issue features his 48-page homage to the character, along with contributions from Walt Simonson, Terry Austin, Dave Gibbons, Adam Hughes, and Howard Chaykin. Also introduces new creators Michael Rury and Todd Britton. 48pg $2.95

<> **Spider-Man Classics** (Lee & Ditko) Ongoing series, to reprint **Amazing Spider-Man** in full; this issue featuring the origin of Spider-Man in the pages of **Amazing Fantasy** 15. $1.25

<> **Spider-Man 2099 6** (David & Leonardi + Williamson) $1.25

<> **Terror Inc. 10** (Chichester & Pace) Terror and Wolverine go head-to-head for no apparent reason other than they're straying on to each other's territories by being *killers*. Features a guest appearance by S.H.I.E.L.D. $1.75

<> **Uncanny X-Men 299** (Lobdell & Peterson) The threat of Magneto and his acolytes raises its head once again when the remains of Asteroid M are found. Forge guests. $1.25

<> **Web of Spider-Man 99** (Kavanagh & Savuik + Yanigher) Mother-of-all-slugfests here sees the Foreigner, Bloodrose, Eel and Blitz up against Spider-Man - and each other. Cover: Yanigher. $1.25

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 9TH

<> **Alpha Flight 119** (Furman & Broderick + Patterson) *Clampdown, Part 2* (of 3). Weapon Omega adopts a new persona, complete with costume, while Alpha is preoccupied with somewhat more important issues - namely fighting off the Wrecking Crew and the terrorist group trying to terminate Manikin. $1.75

<> **Amazing Spider-Man 376** (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) First of a two-part storyline opens with Spider-Man taking on Cardiac and Styx & Stone. Meanwhile, more information is revealed about Peter Parker's parents. Cover: Bagley and Emberlin. $1.25

<> **Barbie 28** (Trusiani & Rausch + Lucas) We're not saying that Barbie's real place is in a circus, but when the delivery company's man takes her Valentine's Day Ball dress to Funny the Clown, it's got to be a question of judgement rather than a mistaken address... But it'll be all right on the night, because Ken's busily searching for the perfect Valentine partner for Barbie: now come on, guys, don't you just wish *you* were that man? $1.25

<> **Darkhold 7** (Cooper & Tyler) Darkhold's actions - setting off a Pearl Harbour in contemporary Hawaii - bring Dr Strange and Modred the Mystic to their senses, and contemplate the daunting task of "dealing" with the Japanese army. $1.75

<> **Death's Head II 4** (Marvel UK; Abnett & Sharp + Lanning) Death's Head II faces the ultimate test when he confronts his unimaginatively named UnDeath's Head II on the UnEarth. Features surprise guest appearances from the Warheads... $1.75

<> **Ghost Rider 36** (Mackie & Blevins + Fredericks) The Caretakers cautionary advice to Ketch falls on deaf ears, as Dan succumbs to Adrienne's charms. But the Ghost Rider has got woman trouble, too, as he encounters new villainess Succubus during his bout with Mr Hyde. $1.75

<> **Groo: Expose** (tpbk; Aragones & Evanier) Reprints issues 17-20 of the ongoing series. 96pg $9.95

<> **Groo the Wanderer 100** (Epic imprint; Aragones & Evanier) The Wanderer's 100th issue establishes a revitalised persona for Groo, who experiences (possibly for the first time) a pause for thought at his mysterious, new-found intelligence. 48pg $2.25

<> **Guardians of the Galaxy 35** (Gallagher & West + Montano) Apparently by popular demand, the Galactic team returns to tackle the plaguey Bubonicus, whose sole aim is to infect the world with as many diseases as possible. $1.25

<> **Lance Barnes: Post-Nuke Dick 1** (of 4; Petrucha & Crain) First of this new humour mini-series introduces sad dick Lance Barnes, who glumly surveys the results of the biggest mistake in world history knowing that it was he who inadvertently triggered the apocalypse. Finally he resumes his professional activities and launches his search for crime anew - amongst the now physically-challenged population of America, with his one-legged secretary, Peg, in tow. $2.50

<> **Marvel Super-Heroes 13** (various) To mark his 30th anniversary, Iron Man's history is celebrated here, complete with multiple pin-ups. Cover: Brasfield. $2.75

<> **Pendragon II 10** (Marvel UK; Abnett & Tomlinson + Clark) Focusing on a recap of Union Jack's origins, with a return hit from the troublesome Baron Blood. MySTECH, however, has more cerebral concerns, as it grapples with the problem of turning round Grace's personality. $1.75

<> **Punisher War Zone 14** (Marvel UK; Abnett & Lanning, McKone + McKenna) The Punisher stumbles upon the realisation that a vigilante's life is not a happy one. But this introspective foray merely results in a renewed determination to teach *all* perps

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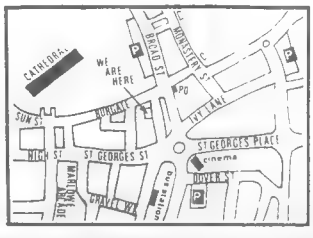

a lesson they won't forget... $1.75

<> **Quasar 45** (Gruenwald & A. Smith + Cabrera) Quasar's got a tough agenda here when, in the midst of his battle with Quagmire, Presence and Neutron issue a sudden - and thoroughly unwelcome - challenge. $1.25

<> **Ravage 2099 5** (S. Lee & Ryan + K. Williams) Ravage faces a Catch-22 when he's torn between the opposing claims of Hellrock and the world that he's bound to protect. $1.25

<> **Savage Sword of Conan 208** (adaptation: Thomas & J. Buscema + Chan) Part two of *Conan and the Spider God* (derived from the L. Sprague de Camp story) sees the hero's mission to rescue a kidnapped Turanian princess leading him to Yezud, the hostile City of the Spider God. Backing story is *The Road to Zanadu* (Thomas & Barras). Cover: Pratt. Magazine format. b&w $2.25

<> **Secret Defenders 2** (R. Thomas & Coates + Hudson) Wolverine, Nomad and Spider-Woman marshal their forces to help Dr Strange in his desperate race against time to defeat his opponent, Macabre. But "know thy enemy" is the maxim for their first task: they can only deal with Macabre when they find out *what* he is. $1.75

<> **Silver Sable 11** (Wright & Sanders III) Sable's due for a hard day at the office when the Cyberwarriors and Hydra appear just as she's about to wrest the truth about her father's fate from the Genesis Coalition. Plus a backing strip, focusing on Sable's first outings with the Wild Pack. Cover: Butler & Sanders III. $1.25

<> **Sleepwalker 23** (Budiansky & Krantz) *The Minefield Saga* draws to a close as the Sleepwalker and crew intervene with Cobweb and the Chain Gang in a battle to save Rick Sheridan's human life. $1.25

<> **Uncanny X-Men; Marvel Masterworks** (pbk; Lee & Kirby + Reinman) Paperback collection of **Uncanny X-Men** 1-5, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the characters. Introduction by Stan Lee. 128pg $12.95

<> **Wolverine 68** (Hama & Texeira) Epsilon Red proves a little too tough for Logan to dispatch, and the X-Men are imported to lend him a hand... $1.50

<> **Wild thing 1** (Marvel UK; Jowett & Mighten) Drawing on sources as familiar as Phillip K. Dick and Aldous Huxley, this first of a new ongoing series presents the odd scenario of an ex-cyberspace technology dealer turning vigilante - with the mission of eradicating the addicts jacked into the equipment she's supplied. But the opportunity to utilise established Marvel characters as virtual reality clones is seemingly too good to be missed, with hotshots Venom and Carnage making an appearance to spice up the stew. $2.50

<> **Wonder Man 20** (G. Jones & Hamilton + Vancata) While Los Angeles is rapidly becoming the scene of a rout - thanks to the presence of Splice, Rampage, Armed Response and Lotus - Wonder Man decides that it's time for a long overdue career change, and opts for the theatre (specifically *Macbeth*) as his chosen profession. Cover: Johnson and Aust $1.50

<> **X-Men Adventures 6** (Macchio & Wildman + Campanella) Leaving Wolverine to contend with Sabretooth in the Arctic, the X-Men steam off in pursuit of what they believe to be their Nirvana, Genosha. But when they get there, they find that they've been conned, and are instantly imprisoned by the notoriously hostile human inhabitants. $1.25

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SHIPPING FEBRUARY 16TH

<> **Avengers 361** (Harras & Epting + Palmer) The imposter Vision takes his best shot at becoming a team member - and at gaining Crystal's affections - while the Swordman's life hangs on a thread. $1.25

<> **Conan 267** (adaptation: R. Thomas & Docherty + Villagran) Second of a four-part story-line based on Tor's *Conan the Renegade*. Conan, having narrowly escaped the machinations of the Kothians, finds himself trapped into an horrific confrontation with a changeling he can't see... Cover: McNeil. $1.25

<> **Dark Angel 10** (Marvel UK; Jaye & Barras) *MySTECH Wars* crossover. The X-Men, Dark Angel and the Avengers are targeted by a new MySTECH assassination mission. Cover: Hitch. $1.75

<> **Doom 2099 4** (Moore & Broderick + Beatty) In the concluding episode of the Tiger Wylde saga, Doom finally achieves his ambition: to have the future of Latveria in his hands... $1.75

<> **Excalibur 64** (Davis and Farmer) Nightcrawler sets about trying to liberate the Warpies from the RCX fortress - and Rachel's behaviour when she returns arouses suspicions that she might have undergone a personality change. $1.75

<> **G.I. Joe 135** (Hama & Wildman + Baskerville) Strategic changes mean that the team is divided into a collection of rapid strike groups, with a mission to fight the Cobra Ninjas on the agenda for Snake-Eyes' crew. Includes a photographic trading card. $1.75

<> **Incredible Hulk 404** (David & Frank + C. Smith) Irresistible forces meet seemingly immovable objects as Red Skull and the Juggernauts measure their strength against the Hulk and the Avengers. $1.25

<> **Marvel Age 123** Double covered issue, with Lyle's Spider-Man/ Venom visuals and Thunderstrike, by Frenz & Milgrom backed by linked features. Plus more information about *The Harrowers* and *The Trouble with Girls*. $1.00

<> **Marvel Comics Presents 125** (anthology) Features *Ghost Rider/ Typhoid Mary, Part 4* (Nocenti & Lightle); *She-Hulk: Andrenazon's Revenge, Part 4* (of 4; Corvese & Hoover + Campanella); *Iron Fist, Part 2* (Cavalieri & McManus); *Wolverine/ Lynx, Part 4* (Lobdell & Jensen + Holdredge) Cover: Kieth. $1.50

<> **Marvel Tales 272** (DeFalco & Frenz + Rubinstein) Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man** 258. Cover: Lim and Austin. $1.25

<> **Midnight Sons Unlimited 1** (anthology) Horror special, collecting four stories, featuring Ghost Rider, John Blaze, Morbius, the Nightstalkers and the Darkhold Redeemers. Scripts are handled by Mackie, Chichester, Wein and Cooper and artwork by Quesada, Janson, Bingham and Martin. Cover: Texeira. Glossy stock. 64pg $3.95

<> **Morbius 8** (Kaminski & Wagner + Witherby) Assuming his Jenkyl persona, Morgan Michaels uses his medical skills to try to save Vic Slaughter's life - so recently threatened by Michael's Hyde persona, Morbius... But Morbius himself has his own, rather fashionable trauma to deal with. Hallucinating from a designer drug he's ingested, Morbius is in no position to defend himself against Nightmare. A lesson for all those old - and new hippies out there, yes sir! $1.75

<> **Punisher 77** (Abnett & Lanning + Braithwaite) It's a hard life, being a vigilante - I mean, when *does* this man do his housework? Certainly not this month, because Micro has been kidnapped during a gang war, and the Punisher's got to deal with it. Trouble is, he probably spends so long assembling his armoury that it's all

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gone off by the time he gets there... $1.25
<> **SHIELD 46** (Wright & Heebink + Hudson) Features a guest appearance by the X-Force. They're going to need all the strategic skills they can muster to deal with a tripartisan conflict between S.H.I.E.L.D, HYDRA and the Eternals. $1.75
<> **Silver Surfer/Warlock: Resurrection 2** (of 4; Starlin & Austin) Even super-heroes suffer from heartbreak, as Warlock finds out when the "reunion" between the Surfer and Shalla Bal - which he thinks that he's effected - turns out to be a joke. $2.50
<> **Spider-Man 33** (Grant & McLeod) *Vengeance, Part 2* (of 3). Spider-Man is targeted by the Master of Vengeance in a smear campaign, and pretty soon everybody in New York thinks that he might be a murderer. But, butl fear-no-evil *as long as you've got a gun in your hand* Punisher comes to his salvation. $1.75
<> **Super Soldiers 1** (Marvel UK; Bennet & L. Stevens, Currie + Ramos) Another series based on the concept so excellently visualised in the film, *Universal Soldier*. It must be generosity which makes creators swipe the ideas - generosity to those who *didn't* see the movie, of course. The only deviation from the film plot here is that the mortalities are genetically mutated by the *British* government, rather than a futuristic US administration... $2.50
<> **Warlock and the Infinity Watch 15** (Starlin & Medina + Almond) Visions of Adam Warlock's past and future swim in and out of view as he muses over the desirability of retiring from his universe-saving activities. But that's not an option as far as Eternity is concerned. $1.75
<> **What If? 48** (Marz & Kobasic + Pepoy) *"What if Daredevil saved Nuke?"* Narrated by Ben Urich. $1.25
<> **X-Factor 89** (David & Quesada + Milgrom) While mutants run rampant, indulging in a veritable orgy of assassinations, Moira McTaggart's in Genosha, where she discovers some vital information about Rahne's transition to mutant status. $1.25
<> **X-Men 19** (Nicieza & Kubert + Pennington) Introducing new villain, Soul Skinner, who's left to whatever his own devices might be while the X-Men squabble with Omega Red. Featuring Betsy Braddock and Illyana. $1.25

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 23RD

<> **Barbie Fashion 27** (Slate & Cool + Robbins) Barbie's probably going to be the envy of all you aspiring artists out there. Face it, could you raise enough money from selling *your* paintings to fund a local hospital? You could? Whatever you do, don't tell the government about it, they'll have everyone on job creation schemes doing it to prop up the NHS budget. $1.25
<> **Black Axe 1** (Marvel UK; Jowett & Perryman + Ramos) Punisher-style mercenary tools up for an ongoing series. Features a guest appearance by Death's Head II. Cover pencils: Romita. $1.75
<> **Codename: Genetix 4** (Marvel UK; of 4; Lanning & Marks, Gascoine) Mini-series concludes with a panoramic Genetix/Prime Evil battle scene, ranging from the Savage Land (just east of nowhere) to "London's River Thames". Features guest appearances from Wolverine and Ka-Zar. Cover: Frank. $1.75
<> **Conan Saga 73** (R. Thomas & Buscema, Villamonte + Chan) *Conan the Sorcerer, Part 2*. The lonesome savage fumbles around for his soul, fighting the monster who guards an oasis along the way (?). Also includes a reprint from **Conan the Barbarian** 35, *The Hell Spawn of Kara Shehr* and the second part of *The Life and Times of Conan*. Cover: Chiodo. Magazine format. b&w $2.25
<> **Deathlok 22** (Marvel UK; McDuffie & Kobasic + Palmiotti) With the artist whose name sounds like the name of a computer language, this issue sees the Black Panther forming an alliance with Deathlok to foil ex-X-Men villain Moses Magnum's ambition to rule Wakanda. $1.75
<> **Dr Strange 52** (Kaminski & Isherwood) In a storyline to be continued in **Morbius** 9, Dr Strange wrestles with Nightmare - and his own personal demons - in his pursuit of Morbius's lost spirit. $1.75
<> **Fantastic Four 375** (DeFalco & Ryan + Bulanadi) Time's getting short for the Fantastic Four as they race to prevent Dr Doom's new, Rogue Watcher-conferred powers taking effect. Look no further for the culprit of this mischief than the scheming Ms Marvel... Features guest appearances by the lovely Lyja and the seductive Sharon Ventura, imported to celebrate the team's anniversary issue. 48pg $2.95
<> **Ghost Rider/ Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance 9** (Mackie & A. Kubert + Reinhold) *Carnival of Death, Part 1* (of 2). When the chums go to the Quentin Carnival for a little rest and recreation, they find the party pooped by Steel Wind and Steel Vengeance... Features new villain, Brimstone, who is apparently set to bring about a sea change in the series. Cover: Kubert. $1.75
<> **Hellstorm 1** (Nieves & Bair) First of an ongoing horror fantasy series. Gabriel (aka "The Devil Hunter") discovers that the secret cult organisation, the Book School, is headed up by Daimon Hellstorm - or more notoriously - the "Son of Satan." Looking, it must be said, like one of The Cult's roadies, Hellstorm not surprisingly proves irresistibly attractive to anyone interested in the occult; and that includes Dr Strange, Ghost Rider... $4.95
<> **The Incomplete Death's Head 4** (12; Furman & Hitch + Hine) Reprint. $1.75
<> **Iron Man 291** (Kaminski & Hopgood + DeCarlo) Tony Stark's ready for *any*thing that comes his way, thanks to his new armour. And that includes two slugfests in rapid order: first with his deputy, Rhodey and then with the Warbots as they launch an attack on Stark Enterprises. But there's one thing puzzling him - who's pulling the Warbots' strings? $1.25
<> **Marvel Universe Master Edition 29** (War & Sanderson, Pollard + Rubinstein) Profiles of 24 Marvel characters, which in this new format issue include Carnage, Black Tom Cassidy, Dazzler, Occulus, Puma, The Reavers, USAgent and the Sabretooth. 48pg. $4.95
<> **Meteor Man Movie Adaptation** (Coye & Walker + Holdredge) Prelude to Robert Townsend's film release. This six-part adaptation focuses on Jefferson Reed, a terminally insecure, paranoid substitute teacher, who, by sheer fluke, is endowed with super-powers. Life as a mere man is more than he can cope with, but life as a super-man merely worsens his problems... and somehow, he's got to come to terms with it. 64pg $2.25
<> **Moon Knight 49** (Kavanagh & Fry + Ivy) Moon Knight's quest to avenge the death of a Shadow Cabinet member is put on temporary hold while he investigates the brutal gang war which has broken out in New York City - and it comes as no surprise to him (and neither, probably, to his fans) to discover that Deadzone is the perp behind the street violence. $1.75
<> **Motormouth 11** (Marvel UK; Dakin & Mendoza + Barras) Motormouth and Killpower land in the strangely specific year of 2159AD when they take flight from MySTECH. Immediately they are attacked by an army of shape changers - who are also energy leeches (what, are our heroes going to be sucked to death by small invertebrates?). $1.75
<> **MySTECH Wars 2** (of 4; Marvel UK; Abnett & Hitch + Anderson) A host of Marvel US characters throw in their lot with UK heroes to defeat MySTECH's attempt at world domination - and Nick Fury is captured by the fearsome *Board*. $1.75
<> **The 'Nam 79** (Lomax & Vansant) *Beginning of the End, Part 1* (of 3). Ed Marks comes out in one piece - just about - from the 1968 Tet offensive, as Sgt Bulldog Brisco begins his account of the slaughter of American troops which set the US withdrawal from Vietnam in motion. Cover triptych: Golden. $1.75
<> **New Warriors 34** (Nicieza & Robertson + Mahlstedt) *Forces of Darkness, Forces of Light Part 3* (of 4). Focusing on guest appearances by, among others, Spider-man, the Avengers, the Thing, the Human Torch and Darkhawk. Introduces a new Darkforce villain. Concludes in **New Warriors Annual** 3. $1.25
<> **Punisher 2099 3** (Mills & Skinner, Morgan + Palmiotti) Skeletons emerge, unbidden, from Jake Gallows' fortress cupboard, but he's got some serious business in hand. He's got to complete the ritualistic selection of arms, then, after blowing away the members of a cult, he's got to put all his weapons *back* again. Goodness only knows when he'll get around to the other matter... $1.25
<> **Punisher War Journal 53** (Dixon & Kwapisz) Frank Castle's heart's in the right place - and so, finally, is **The 'Nam**'s Ice, as they fight side by side to defeat the army of white supremacists. $1.75
<> **Silver Surfer 79** (Marz & Lim + Christopher) The Surfer takes a trip to what appears to be a deserted planet - and finds, like Robinson Crusoe, that he's not alone... But his fellow travellers are no Man Fridays - they're survivors from the Kree-Shi'Ar War - and they *don't* want his company. Cover: Lim & Austin. $1.25
<> **Spectacular Spider-Man 199** (De-Matteis & Buscema) Green Goblin returns in a pre-200th anniversary issue. $1.25
<> **Thor 461** (Marz & Starlin + Zick) His ego bruised by a tiff with Thor, the disgruntled Sif despatches Beta Ray Bill for a galaxy-shaking confrontation with the god of thunder. $1.25
<> **Toxic Crusaders 2** (of 4; Banx & D. Leach) Based on Marvel's animated TV series. $1.25
<> **Venom 3** (of 6; Michelinie & Bagley + DeLaRosa) The odds are looking long for Venom's survival as he is simultaneously hunted by the families of his victims and the ubiquitous Spider-Man. But no worries, should this Venom fall, another is on hand and ready to assume the mantle... $2.95
<> **William Shatner's Tekworld 8** (Goulart & Sullivan) On his return to Los Angeles, Jake learns - to his relief - that the International Drug Control Agency has information which might prove that he was framed during the TEK trial. $1.75
<> **X-Force 21** (Nicieza & Capullo + Candelario) Cable's collection of gizmos is endangered when Magneto's base, Graymalkin, is stormed; in the meantime, X-Force meets an enraged Iron Man$1.25
<> **X-Men Classic 82** (Claremont & Romita, Jr. + Romita, Sr.) Reprints **Uncanny X-Men** 178. $1.25

MILLENNIUM

<> **Anne Rice's The Witching Hour 3** (of 13; adaptation: Eagleson & Collins) Michael Curry searches frantically throughout Louisiana for the solid manifestations of the visions of doorways and the number 13 that constantly appear in his mind's eye. In the meantime, all hell is let loose in New Orleans as the Mayfair Witches, led by the supernatural Lasher, fight a violent battle to guard their secrets. Cover: Bolton. Mature readers. $2.50

MIRAGE STUDIOS

<> **Dino Island 1** (of 2; Lawson) Aviatrix Amelia is stranded on a desert island during a bid to set a trans-oceanic speed record. There she concludes that Darwin was right when she finds out that the isle is populated by dinosaurs *and* men, co-existing naturally. But the diverse communities and the island itself are not as they appear, and Amelia embarks on a tremendous voyage of discovery within the narrow geographical confines of a miniature alternative world. $2.75
<> **Plastron Cafe 2** (anthology) Features *Xeno-Tech, Prelude* (Dooney); *Mechatypical* (Jenkins & Farley); *North by Downeast, Part 2* (Eastman & Veitch) and *Guzzi LeMans* (Lawson). b&w $2.25
<> **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 56** (Eastman & Laird, Lawson + Aikin) *City at War, Part 7* (of 13) Leo is captured by Karai's men when she despatches them to do battle with the Turtles, while Splinter, in dire straits, contemplates cannibalism... Elsewhere, Casey and Gabrielle's relationship becomes more intimate, and poor April strives still to eradicate stress from her life. $2.25

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<> **The Twilight Zone Annual 1** (Hanzel & Turna + Kaalberg) *Historical Perspective*. Seeking to facilitate his lessons, a history teacher invents a time machine, which, if he did but know it, provides an ideal entry point to The Twilight Zone... $3.50

REVOLUTIONARY

<> **The Elvis Presley Experience 5** (Shapiro & McCray + Sowd) November 1961 to December 1967. The King's descent into despair, his occult refuge, an unsuccessful encounter with The Beatles and his stormy married life with Priscilla. b&w $2.50
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<> **Demi the Demoness 1** (Crompton) Adult, N, S. b&w $2.95
<> **Not Quite Dead! 1** (Shelton & PIC) Satirical look at the music biz, focusing on the eponymous rock band whose combined experience in the business equals 600 years and they still can't play - y'know, it's like - *effort*, too much, maaan. b&w $2.95
<> **Post Bros. 30** (Howarth) Ron is having a terrible time making anyone believe that he killed Joey Labido - and that's the only way he's going to get paid. And when he terrorises a little girl so that her family will

tell the police she remains nonchalant: she's simply *not scared* of him... Mature readers. b&w $2.50

<> **Rockers 6** (Crabb & Parsons) Adult material. b&w 36pg $2.00

<> **Strips 3** (Austen) Reprint. Adult material, N. S. b&w 36pg $2.50

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<> **Adios Palomita** (Vatine & Clement, Lamy + Rabarot) Beautiful outlaw savours her revenge when, immediately after being released from jail, she's commissioned to hunt down her husband, who fled during a bank robbery, leaving her to be caught. Mature readers. 48pg $14.95

<> **Beer Nutz 3** (Wayno) Ultimate comics enthusiasts Howie Peterson and brother Pete, are sucked into a vortex that true fans will recognise as collector's mar$2.25

<> **Tantalising Stories 3** (Martin & Woodring) Montgomery Wart and Frank exhaust themselves trying to come to terms with the opposite sex. But rejection, in a more or less brutal form - or savage consumption - meets them at every turn. Oh well, it's back to the male bonding *again*, then. b&w $2.25

<> **White Trash 3** (Rennie & Emond) Dean finally draws the line when the King (who plays it like Dennis Hopper in **Blue Velvet**) snuffs an average American family for driving a Japanese car. He convinces himself that when he gets to Vegas he'll be able to sell his *Wild at Heart* for megabucks. It's just a question of whether he'll find himself looking down the business end of the King's gun before they get there or not... Mature readers. $3.95

VALIANT

<> **Archer & Armstrong 10** (Windsor-Smith & Wiacek) Archer's guided tour of the UK draws to a close, but before he and Armstrong leave, they persuade Solar to help them teach a "drove of deranged Druids" a lesson. But he smells something rotten, and it's got a lot to do with the tricks that the beery beasts got up to at Stonehenge. $2.50

<> **Bloodshot 4** (VanHook & Perlin + Ivy) Bloodshot has some less than pleasant revelations when his history - swiped by Project: Rising Spirit - is recounted at length. Features a cameo by Eternal Warrior, Gilad. $2.25

<> **Eternal Warrior 10** (Moretti & J. Dixon) *The Book of the Geomancer, Part 2* (of 2). Concluding episode sees Gilad's body turning against him - trying,in fact, to destroy him. While the Eternal Warrior's back is metaphorically to the camera, Master Darque sneek-despatches a new and improved thrall to capture the Book of the Geomancer. $2.25

<> **Harbinger 17** Pete begins to doubt his own perceptions, but thinks that something may be seriously amiss with his powers; meanwhile, a new Harbinger seeks to destroy the team from within. $2.50

<> **The H.A.R.D. Corps 6** (Michelinie & Leeke + Ryder) The team are caught in a quandary: whether to prioritise the attack on Harada in the hope of capping his growing power, or to break into the spider alien nest in Oregon. Either way, nothing will ever be quite the same again, least of all the H.A.R.D. Corps itself. $2.25

<> **Magnus Robot Fighter 24** (Ostrander & Brock + Reese) Magnus's strength has reached its limit, and he's still making no headway against the Malev forces. Realising that if he doesn't enlist some allies the human race will pay a terrible price, the Robot Fighter sets about recruiting some help. Continues in **Rai & the Future Force** 9. $2.25

<> **Rai & the Future Force 9** (Ostrander & Chen + Bolinger) Comprising the alliance Magnus was so eager to establish. Gilad, X-O Commando, Tekla, Spylocke and new character Rai join Magnus to do battle with the apocalyptic Malev forces. $2.50

<> **Shadowman 13** (Hall) Jack's prolonged exposure to Master Darque has made him want to move on from the Big Easy - but escaping trouble is one trick that the Shadowman can't perform. $2.50

<> **Solar, Man of the Atom 21** (VanHook & Grau + Drake) *Afraid of the Darque, Part 1.* Solar's become a loose cannon, his delusions becoming more noticeable as the fragility of his mind's balance increases. His vulnerability attracts Master Darque, and Solar plunges into a desperate struggle with Shadowman's nemesis for control of his own humanity. $2.25

<> **X-O Manowar 16** (Layton & Sears + Ryder) X-O turns the tables on the mafia, making an offer they can't refuse when he intervenes in their battle with Aric. $2.25

VIZ COMMUNICATIONS

<> **Battle Angel Alita 6** (of 9; Kishiro) Alita has a chance to flex her new muscles and her new powers when she is trapped by the monster cyborg, Makaku. But he's not going to let such a chance pass him by, and devises a further trap for her ... using *sewage*. Will this cyborg stop at nothing? b&w $2.75

<> **Crying Freeman Part Five #4** (of 11; Koike & Ikegami) With Tateoka vanquished, Freeman muses on how he can kill the pimp's employer. Finally he calls on Bagwana, a black female assassin, to use her skills to entrap the "vulgar businessman". Adult, nudity, violence, b&w $2.75

<> **Macross II 6** (of 10; Okazaki) Having liberated Silvie and Wendy, Hibiki and Ishtar are promptly captured by Marduk, where they are subject to torture and tried for treachery. But Silvie is determined that she will not desert them, and she sets off with Hibiki to the Marduk forces' flagship. b&w $2.75

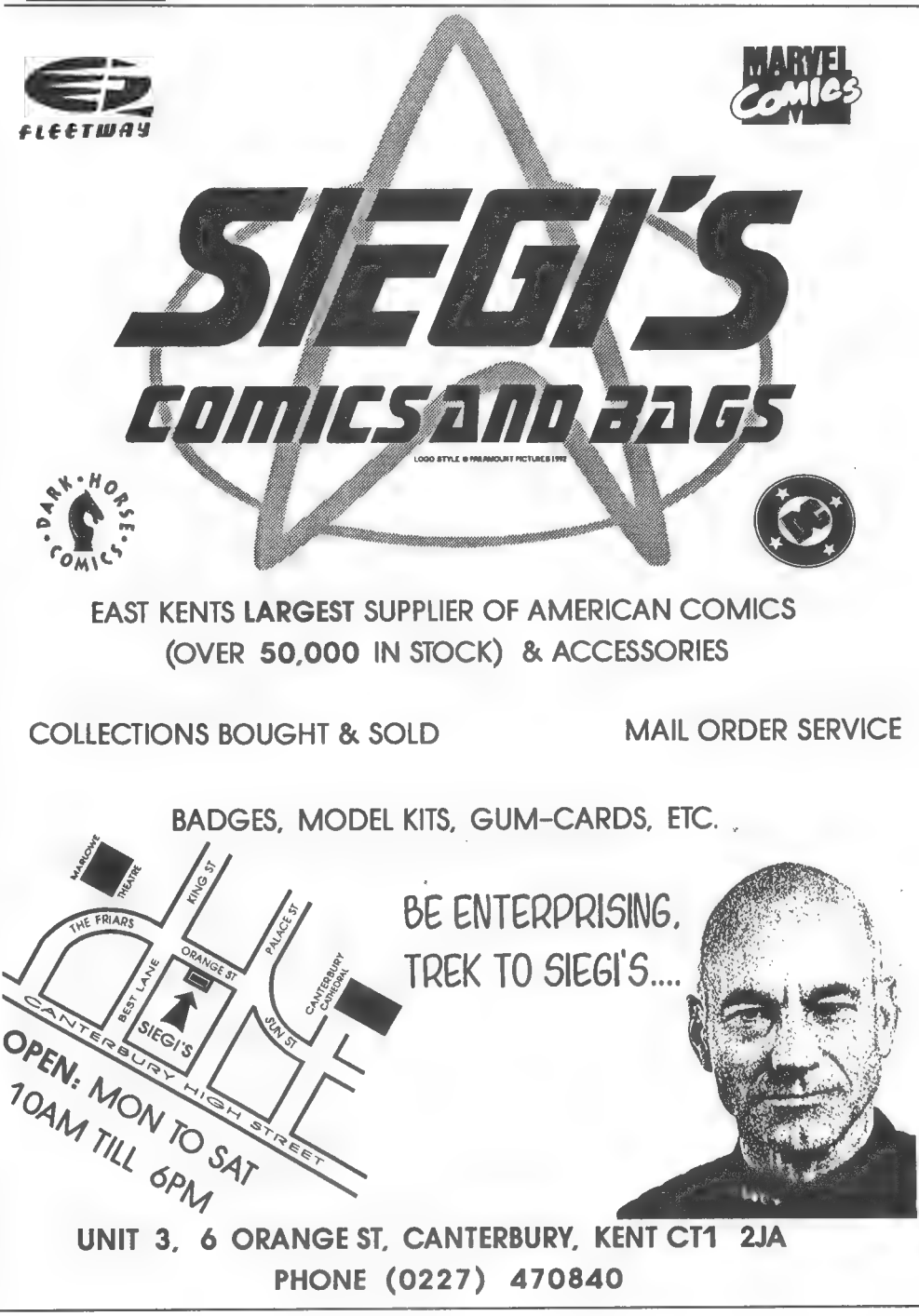
<> **Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind Part Three #3** (of 3; Miyazaki) The Dorok Emperor offers Kushana a no-win deal: the lives of her men in exchange for her hand in marriage - thus the merger of the two empires. Nausicaa has a premonition of this doomsday scenario, and reluctantly leaves her haven among the "forest people" for what will prove to be a final flight. b&w 48pg $3.95

<> **Ranma 1/2 Part 2, #2** (of 11; Takahashi) Akane is chosen to represent her school in a rhythmic gymnastics martial arts contest with the "Black Rose", Kodachi Kuno. But unfortunately her opponent is not a patient man, and launches an unsolicited attack on Akane - while she's in her bed! b&w 40pg $2.95

<> **Rumic World** (gn; Takahashi) Collection of three short stories by manga guru Rumiko Takahashi: *Fire Tripper, The Laughing Target* and *The Supergal*. b&w 156pg $14.95

WARP GRAPHICS

<> **Elfquest: New Blood 4** (Lea Hernandez) A manga-style "what if" story postulates the effect of a testosterone-driven Sun Village Romeo's propositioning Moonshade, the brooding Strongbow's lifemate... $2.00



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s-p	= small press & fanzines
merch	= comics-related trading cards, T-shirts, posters, models, etc
ind	= US independent comics (non-newsstand titles)
Brit	= British comics & albums
frgn	= foreign language comics
u/g	= underground comics
gn	= graphic novels & trade paperback editions
m/o	= mail order service
STO	= standing order service, new comics reserved
RPG	= role playing games

CENTRAL LONDON

Acme Comic Shop, 391 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8LQ (near Brixton tube) Mon-Thur 10-6; Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, wants lists welcomed) 071-274 6697 or 274 7025

Avalon Comics, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11. Mon - Thurs 10.00 - 5.45, Fri 10.00 - 7.00; Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO, m/o - send wants list) 071-924 3609

Bayswater Books, 27 Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3EL. Mon - Sat 11.00 - 7.00 (flexi-hours, sometimes till midnight!) (back, ind, u/g, m/o to wants lists with sae, also general 2nd hand books, search service) 071 402 7398

Comic Showcase, 76 Neal St, London WC2. Mon - Wed 10-6; Thurs - Sat 10-7; Sun 12-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/gs, Brit, gn, cartoon books, original art) 071-240 3664

Fantastic Store, 166 Portobello Road, London W11. Mon - Fri 10 - 6.30; Sat 9 - 7. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 071-221 3858

Fantastic Store, Virgin Megastore, 14-16 Oxford Street, London W1. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 8.00; Sun 12.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 071-631 1234

Forbidden Planet, 71 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1DG. Mon - Wed + Sat 10-6; Thurs + Fri 10-8 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/gs, Brit, gn, m/o, film & tv) 071 379 6042

Gosh! 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (opposite British Museum) 10-6 7 days a week inc Bank Hols. Late Thurs & Fri til 7.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, largest selection of newspaper strip compilations in UK) 071 636 1011

Mega-City Comics, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Sun 10-6; late Thurs + Fri to 7. (imp, back, merch, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film-tv fantasy, horror, body art, subculture,m/o,STO) 071 485 9320

Stateside Comics PLC at Hamleys, 4th Floor, 188/196 Regent Street, London W1 6BT. (imp, back, ind, gn merch, Brit, STO, m/o) 071-287 3097

Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin, 1st Floor, Virgin Marble Arch, 527-531 Oxford St, London W1. Mon-Wed & Fri 9.30-7.30; Thurs 9.30-8; Sat 9-7.30; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO, m/o) 071-499 8839; fax 071-491 4806

Top Ten Soho, Unit 3, 9-12 St Anne's Court, Soho, London W1V 3AX. Mon - Sat 10 - 6; Sun 12 - 5. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, m/o, STO) 071-734 7388

OUTER LONDON

Altered Images, 6 The Arcade, High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1ET. Mon-Wed & Fri 10-5.30; Thurs 10-6.30; Sat 9-6. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, m/o - send wants lists) 081 770 3815

Atomic Comics, 1112 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Sat 10 - 6 excl Fri 10 - 7 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, 2nd hand horror fantasy sf bks, original art, m/o - no lists, send wants + sae or phone) 081-597 8547

Calamity Comics, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-8; Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, Sega & Nintendo game cartidges, videos) 081-427 3831

Comic Shack, 720 High Road, Leytonstone, London E11 3NN. Mon - Thurs 9.30 - 5.30; Fri & Sat 9.30 - 5.30; Sun 11-5.30. Also by appointment (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, gn, hbks, m/o to wants list with sae) 081-539 7260 / 081-555 9303 (eves)

Dynamic Comics, Units 70-72, In Shops Centre, 68 Church St, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RB. Mon - Sat 9.00 -5.30pm. (imp, back, ind, s-p, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, merch, m/o - send wants lists) phone & fax 081-681 2597

Edge of Forever, The, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs 10-7; Fri 10-8; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) 081-298 1363

Gary's Book & Comic Stall, Site A65, The High Street, Walthamstow, London E17. Thur + Fri 10-5; Sat 8-5.30. Tube: Walthamstow Central (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, annuals, children's books)

Graphically Speaking, 49 Roman Road, London E2. Mon - Wed & Sat 11-6; Thur - Fri 11-7; Sun 11-5. (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, Brit, ind, STO, m/o, sf & general ppbk, gn & silver age specialists) 081 983 4602

Krypton Komics, 252 High Rd, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Wed 10-6; Thur-Fri 9.30-7; Sat 9-6. Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, m/o) 081-801 5378

Readers Dream, 100A Harlington Road West, Feltham, (near Heathrow airport) Middlesex TW14 0JJ. Mon-Sat 9.30 - 6.00 excl Weds - closed.. (imp, back, gn, STO, computer repairs) 081-844 0780

Skinny Melink's Comic Shop, 66 Loampit Vale, Lewisham, London SE 13. Mon - Thur 11 - 6.30; Fri 11 - 7; Sat 10 - 6.30; Sun 11 - 4. (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 081-318 0499

Stateside Comics PLC, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF. Mon-Wed 10-7; Thur-Fri 10-8; Sat 9-6; Sun 10-3 (later by appointment). (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, tv-film & fantasy, gn, m/o, STO) 081-449 5535

They Walk Among Us, 30 Union Court, Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1AA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 excl Fri 9.30-6 (imp, merch, back, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, fantasy/s-f/horror books, trading cards, sub-culture, STO, wants lists welcomed) Phone/fax 081 948 8476

Time Trek, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TR. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (late Thurs to 8) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, sf TV & film related merch, STO) 081 313 0677

Twilight Zone (London), 36 Bell Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3PB. Mon-Sat 9.30 -6.30 (imp, back, ind, gn, m/o) 081 570 2399

Westside Comics, 396 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0EL. Mon - Sat 10-6, late Thurs & Fri to 6.30. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO). 081-813 5019

SOUTH EAST

Asylum Comics, t/a Grosvenor News, 64 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AS. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 6.00, Sun 9.00 - 2.00. (imp, back, gn, frgn, ind, Brit, STO, wants lists welcome) 0892 521827

American Comic Enterprise, 1 Headgate Buildings, St John's Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts) 0206 561 912

Cartoon Shop, Upper Galleries, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon, Essex. Mon - Wed & Sat 10.00 - 6.00, Thurs & Fri 10.00 - 8.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0268 534194

Cartoon Shop, 21-22 Talza Way, Lower Ground Floor, Victoria Circus Centre, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0702 613021

The Comic Rocket, 75a Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Mon-Wed 10-4.30; Thur & Fri 10-7.30; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, gn, u/g, STO) 0892 518771

Comic Showcase, 19-20 St Clements Street, Oxford. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0865-723680

Excaliber Comics, 19 The Hornet, Unit 1, The Alms House Arcade, Chichester, West Sussex. Mon-Wed 10-5; closed Thurs; Fri 10-5; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, gn, Brit, m/o, STO, RPG, videos) 0243 537070

Fantastic Store, 14 Gardner Street, Brighton BN1 1PL. Mon-Wed 9 - 6; Thurs 9 - 8; Fri-Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 0273-25300

Incognito Comic Shop, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. Mon - Fri 10 - 6; Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, film & tv related merch 0622 683 642

Paperback Reader, 82 Queens Road, Hastings, TN34 1RL. Mon - Sat (excl Wed, closed) 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, assorted 2nd hand ppbks) 0424 446749

Siegl's Comics & Bags, Unit 3, 6 Orange St, Canterbury, Kent. Mon - Sat 9 - 6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, tv SF, gum cards, classic sf memorabilia, m/o) 0227 470840

Whatever Comics, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, model kits) 0227 453226

MIDLANDS

Another World, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0533 515266

Another World, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0602 484 122

Arrival Comics, 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton,-WV1 1HP. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.15. imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, horror videos, adult (non-porn) mags. 0902-313 660

Bookworm, Unit 3 33-39 Tower Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Mon - Sat 11.00 - 4.00. (back, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, fantasy & sf, early Penguins, general fic & non-fic, records) 0553 760904/771880

Central City Comics, 4 Eagle St, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10 - 6. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, m/o: wants lists with sae) 0473 233017

Comic Showcase, 17 Norfolk Street, Cambridge. Mon - Fri 11.00 -6.00; Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0223-69206

Comics Unlimited, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford MK40 1NH. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0234 218984

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Demon Comics, 12 Berrington Street, Hereford HR4 0BJ. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, merch, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, t-shirts, sci-fi models) 0432 358355

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Fantastic Store, Virgin Megastore, 6-8 Wheelergate, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 0602-476246

Fantasy World, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0782 279294 (fax 0782 202381)

The Final Frontier, 29 St Nicholas Place, Leicester LE1 4LD. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) Established 1984. 0533 514347

Ground Zero, 11 Handley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, m/o, STO, accessories) 0623 22017

Magic Labyrinth, 34-36 Rutland Street, Leicester LE1 1RD. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, frgn, merch, s-p, m/o, STO, RPG) 0533 518178/fax: 0533 518179

Mephisto Comics, 81 Ber Street, Norwich, NR1 3RD. Mon - Fri 10 - 6, Sat 9 - 6. (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, m/o, STO) 0603 762762

Nostalgia & Comics, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon - Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri + Sat 9.15 - 6. (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, m/o, STO) 021 643 0143

Outer Limits, 4 The Broadway, Bedford, MK40 2TH. Tues - Sat 9am - 6pm, Mon 9am - 8pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, video) 0234 358581

Outer Limits, 12 King Street, Luton LU1 2DP. Mon-Sat 9 - 6; Thurs late night until 8. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, video) 0582 422082

Planet X, 5 London Road, Worcester. Tues - Sat 10 - 6.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, m/o, STO - monthly) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin, Virgin Megastore, 1st Floor, 98 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6SX. Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9-6; Tues 9.30-6; Thurs: 9-8. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, tv-film & fantasy, gn, merch, STO) 021 236 5735 (fax: 021 236 8153)

Time Zone, 12 Fish Street (off Butcher Row), Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, m/o, STO, RPG) 0743 365192

Zoom Comics!! Unit 3, Inshops Centre, 65 South Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1QX. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 021 354 7500

NORTH WEST

Arcadia Comics, 12 Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7PT (next to Comet). Mon-Sat 10.00-5.15 (imp, back, ind, horror & sf mags and novels, Doctor Who, Trek, ltd merch, ltd gn, Brit, STO, ltd toys & figures, m/o: send wants list) 061 339 1816

Box 5 News, 19 Blakey Moor (near Waves), Blackburn, Lancs BB2 1LL. Mon - Sat 7.00 - 6.00 (imp, Brit, STO, g-n) 0254 698020

■ **1st For Adventure**, 5 Fishergate Row, Butler St, Fishergate Centre, Preston, Lancs PR1 8BN. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, m/o, STO, RPG) 0772 828035

■ **4th Dimension**, 31 Back Piccadilly, Piccadilly, Manchester. Wed - Sat 12.00 - 5.30 (back, sf & horror novels, Doctor Who, Star Trek, mags & more). 061 237 5996

■ **Imagination Station**, Unit 28, Portland Shopping Centre, Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1NT. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO)

■ **Odyssey 7**, 21 Hanging Ditch, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester M4 3ES. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror books, postcards, videos, badges, soundtracks, stills, LF filmbooks, Star Trek, Doctor Who.) 061 832 7044

■ **Odyssey 7**, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RN. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror novels, postcards, posters, badges, stills, LF film books, Trek, Dr Who, etc) 061 273 6666

■ **Ogre Books**, 120 Picton Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, s-p, Brit) 051 733 0149

■ **Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool. 10 - 5.30 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat all year; Mon & Sun in season (closed Wed). Out of season open Wed, closed Sun + Mon. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, kits, limited gn, m/o, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0253-48321

■ **Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancs. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, limited gn, m/o, kits, t-shirts, media collectors' items. 0772-204287

■ **The Time Tunnel**, 66 Edleston Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7HD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm excl Weds. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, model kits, toys, action figures, Doctor Who, Star Trek)

■ **Worlds Apart**, Acorn Gallery, 16 Newington, (city centre) Liverpool L1 4ED. Mon - Sat (excl Wed) 10.00 - 6.00; Wed 12.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, fantasy film mags) 051 707 0839

NORTH EAST

■ **Armadillo**, 16-22 Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU1 2PA. Mon-Sat 10-6; late Thur-Fri to 8 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, u/g, STO, videos, ppbks). 0482 29787

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch ind, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, film mags, Who, Trek, accessories) 0642 249 143

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 8, Regency West Mall, Princes Regent Street, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, m/o, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Doctor Who, Star Trek, boxes bags & accessories) 0642 617 241

■ **Dells Comic & Book Stalls**, 129 Kirkgate Market, Bradford 1. Mon - Sat 9 - 5 excl Wed 9 - 3 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, horror masks, tv fantasy mags) 0274 390 541

■ **Happy Planet**, Rocks Off, 85 Westgate, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 2RD. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 5.30, Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, s-p, Brit, STO) 0274 736 292

■ **Hysteria Comics**, Unit 2, The Arches, Park Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 7PH. Mon-Sat 9-5 limp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO, film mags) 0429 236952

■ **Nu Earth Comics**, 4 Davygate Centre, York Y01 2SU. Mon - Fri 10 - 5.30; Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, art bks) 0904 611 461

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorkshire. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.15 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror magazines, newspaper strip compilations) 0742 769475

■ **Odyssey**, 6 Harrison Street, off Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 6PA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 0532 426 325

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, m/o, STO, Star Trek items) 0742 758905

■ **Skyrack Book Service**, 51 The Superstore, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY. Yorkshire. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5pm; excl Weds: 9.30am - 1pm. (imp, back, ind, Brit, STO, SF hbk gn & magazines - many pulps, m/o) Establ 1965.

WEST COUNTRY

■ **Comics & CDs**, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, RPG, u/g, Brit, original art) 0272 244655

■ **Floppy Tongue Comics**, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7QY. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0722 331107

■ **The Hobbit Hole**, 9 Commercial Road, Gloucester. Mon 12-5.30; Tues-Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, T-shirts, film-tv mags + merch) 0452 309 533

■ **Joy's Comics**, 25 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EZ. Mon - Sun 7.30 - 6. (imp back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, m/o) 0305 269737 (after 6pm 833304)

■ **Kathies Comics**, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO) 0752 257800

■ **Purple Haze**, 58 Eastlake Walk, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL1 1BX (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, STO) 0752 254136

■ **Wonderworld**, 803 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist stockist) 0202 422 964

■ **Wonderworld**, Unit 2, Bevois St, Southampton S01 1JD. Tues-Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0703 234815

■ **Wonderworld**, 25 Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO5 3SQ. Tues-Sat 10-2, 3-6. (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0705 833 272

ISLE OF WIGHT

■ **Astounding Comics**, 74 High Street, Newport, Isle of Wight P030 1BG. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, m/o, STO, RPG, videos) 0983 825544

WALES

■ **Cardiff Fantasy Centre**, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sats only 9.30-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, videos; establ 12 yrs) 0222 563005

■ **Comix Shoppe**, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o, film/tv mags, RPG, Games Workshop stockists) 0792 642097

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 excl Thurs 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0222 228885

■ **Journey into Mystery**, The Emporium, 34 Castle Arcade, Cardiff. Tues - Fri 11.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, STO, indie records & cds)

■ **Negative Zone**, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, STO) 0633 222159

SCOTLAND

■ **AKA Books & Comics**, 25 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5RJ. Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn) 041 552 6692

■ **Black Hole Comic Shop**, The Market Hall, Wellgate Centre, Dundee. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, u/g, STO) 0382 21037

■ **City Centre Comics**, Argyle Shopping Centre, 28 Argyle Street, Glasgow G2 8AD. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00. (back issue specialists) 041-632 2786 (after 6pm)

■ **Dead Head Comics**, 44 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2JW. Mon - Wed, Fri, Sat: 10 - 6.30; Thurs 11 - 7.30; Sunday 12 - 4. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 031 226 2774

■ **Earth 2 Comics** Candleriggs Market, 71-73 Albion St, Glasgow G1 1RB. Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Sun 10-5.30. (back issue specialists, gn, SF bks, ind, m/o -- send wants; sae for silver age & hot comics list) 041-647 6810 (after 6pm)

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 2 - 3 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QZ. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30, excl Thurs till 6.30. (imp, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, m/o, STO) 031-225 8613

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon - Wed 10 - 5.30; Thurs + Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO) 041 331 1215

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■ **Paul's Comics**, The Gallowgate Market, 148 Gallowgate, Glasgow. Sat & Sun 8.30 - 4.30. (imp, back, ind, merch, STO, m/o: PO Box 932, Glasgow G21 1YY, sae + want list) Mon-Fri: 041 557 1186

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, 28-32 Union Street, Glasgow, G2 7LZ. Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9-6; Tues 9.30-6; Thurs 9-7; Sun 12-5.30. (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO) 041 221 2915; Fax 041 221 2916

■ **Plan 9 Comics**, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB1 1NE. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (Thurs till 8), Sun 1 - 5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, m/o: send wants, RPG specialist, board games, figures, STO) 0224 624467

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ **Talisman Comics**, 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0232-438 744

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■ **Music & Video Exchange**, 11a La Motte Street, St Helier, Jersey. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (back, ind, Brit, u/g, records, videos, hi-fi, m/o -- wants lists preferred) 0534 36606

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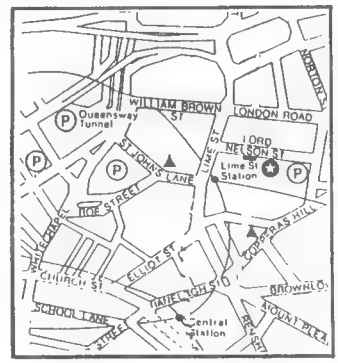

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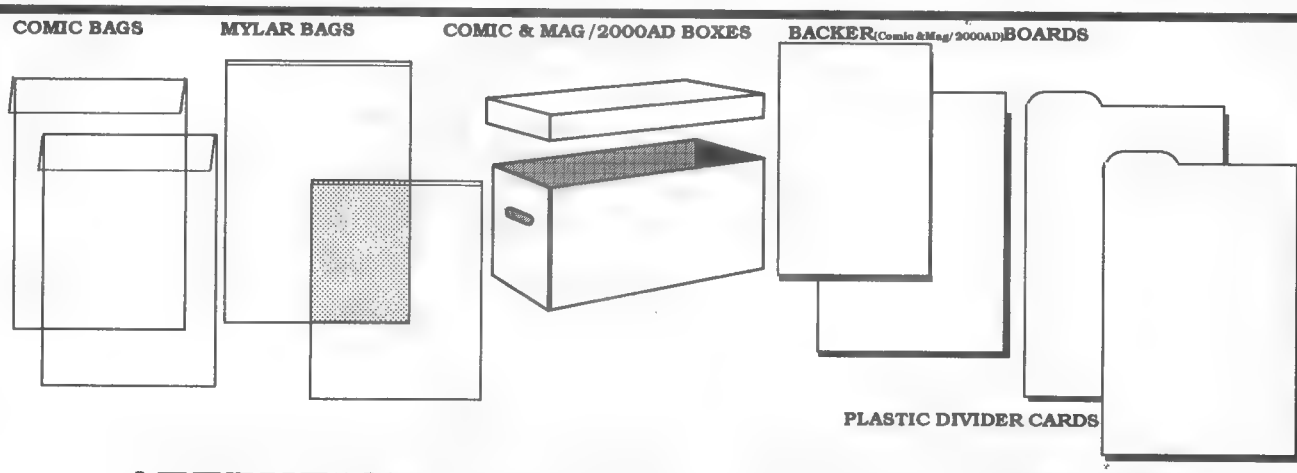

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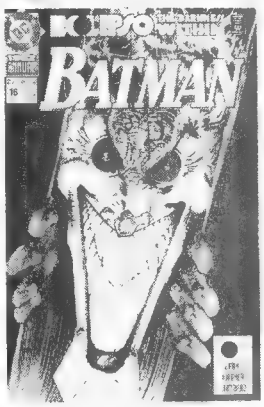

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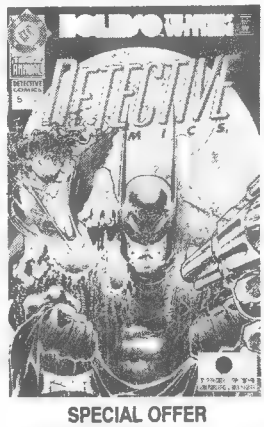

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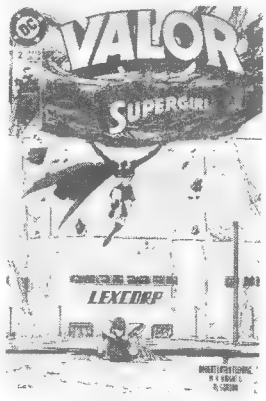

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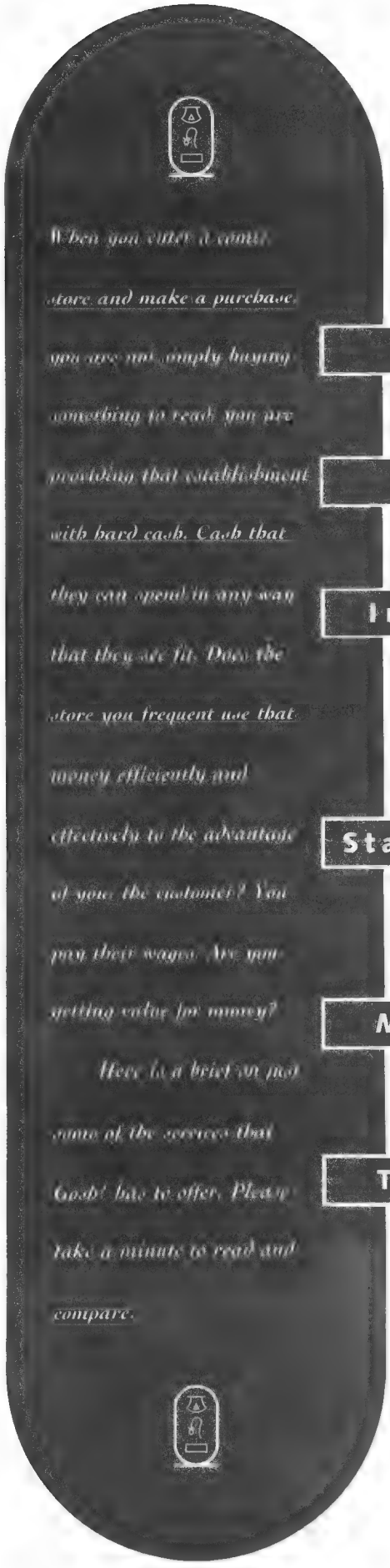
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REVIEWS

It is the intention of ***Comics International*** *to help you, the comic reader, keep abreast of the entire range of titles currently available through direct sale specialist shops, good newsagents and mail order companies. Few retailers allow you to read all titles in stock before choosing your purchases; our reviews are designed to counter this and draw your attention to comics you might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section should be of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they only discover the quality of a new title after purchase.*

Review codes: *General competitive performance of a title is measured on a scale of 1 to 10. A specific issue's quality, as measured against previous issues: <- - -> to <+ + +>.*

Two ratings are used for the sake of detailed and fair coverage. The number following each review (on a scale of 1 to 10) is a quality comparison with other ***similar*** *titles currently being published. We make no attempt to compare* ***Love & Rockets*** *to* ***Batman****, but review each within the context of its own genre.*

The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +>) if there has been a notable improvement.

Reviews Editor: *Sarah Bolesworth*

Reviewing panel: Paul Birch, Sarah Bolesworth, Peter Hayward-Brewer, Rol Hirst, Mike Kidson, Danny King, Skinny Melink and Peter C. Phillips

DC COMICS

Action Comics 685 <+> (Stern & Guice + Rodier) The Cadmus Project lays claim to Superman's body, sparking a confrontation with Maggie Sawyer's Special Crimes Unit. Excellent characterisations. (PCP) 8

Animal Man 56 <+> (Delano & Pugh, Eaton + Higgins) Double chapter conclusion to Jamie Delano's story in the **Animal Man** renaissance. A story of family love and the will to live succeeding against all adversity, with a poetic script and darkly realistic artwork. One of the best books on the market. (RH) 10

Batman Adventures 4 <+> (Pasko & Rader + Burchett) The Scarecrow provokes the spread of an illiteracy plague in Gotham, in a gritty script that is a match for the regular Batman titles. (PCP) 8

<+> The "cartoon" adventures of Batman continue as the Scarecrow infects Gotham with an illiteracy plague. Intelligently scripted, with crisp visuals, this is a surprisingly entertaining addition to the Batman cannon. (RH) 8

Batman: Seduction of the Gun 1 (Ostrander & Giarrano) Behind a stunning Dave Dorman cover, John Ostrander explores America's gun culture and its effects on the wider community. Surprisingly, the most interesting sequences feature Robin, who goes undercover in a high school where virtually every student carries a weapon. Disturbingly true to life, with Vince Giarrano's best artwork to date. (RH) 8

Batman: Shadow of the Bat 9 <+> (Grant & Sale) Average ending to this rather turgid tale of a group of no-hopers teaming up to kidnap Bruce Wayne, Commissioner Gordon and the mayor. Tim Sale's art is good in places, but not really suited to Batman - and the overall plot seems lifeless and bland. (RH) 6

Batman: Vengeance of Bane Special 1 (Dixon & Nolan + Barreto) A boy born into tyrannical captivity grows up with delusions of grandeur and an almighty hatred for Batman. He draws a lot on "The Count of Monte Cristo" and the Captain America Super Soldier scenario. His hatred of Batman is one of its weakest elements, but if Bane is to be used regularly in future storylines it's a key issue for Bat collectors. (PCP) 6

This 64-page special falls very much into two distinct halves. The first tells the tragic and fascinating origin of Bane, a man who has spent his entire life in an horrific South American prison... Unfortunately, the storyline plummets once Bane escapes to Gotham, where he becomes just another obsessed anti-hero. (RH) 7

Batman 489 <+ -> (Moench & Aparo) With Batman bedridden, Robin and Azrael take on Killer Croc - and Bane... Insubstantial. (PCP) 4

<+> As Bruce Wayne's health gets steadily worse, Robin lets Azrael pose as Batman in an attempt to foil the rampaging Killer Croc, which leads - potentially - to disaster when Bane shows up. Moench's depiction of Bruce Wayne is fascinating lately: haunted, tortured and fevered, his Wayne is on the edge of a complete breakdown. (RH) 8

Black Canary 2 <-> (Byam & Von Eeden + Smith) Canary continues the vote rigging investigation. A complete handbook on how to produce a five star yawn-inducing comic. (PCP) 1

Black Condor 8 <-> (Augustyn & Gustovich + Space) Despite suffering a bout of guest artists, this book is still unusual enough to be entertaining. Black Condor is barred from testifying in court, and his emotional response lands him in prison, while the real villain goes free... This title succeeds in tweaking standard super-heroics, making them into interesting, readable scenarios. (RH) 7

Darkstars 5 <+> (Friedman & Charest + Hanna) The beginnings of some character development in this title have improved this generally uninteresting "space cops" book. Travis Charest's art is of the Jim Lee/Whilce Portacio school - lots of tiny shading lines - but it's too early to say if he will really be "hot". (RH) 6

Deathstroke, the Terminator 18 <+> (Wolfman & Wein, Erwin + various) The Brotherhood of Evil aims to acquire the nuclear weapons owned by the former Soviet bloc. Slade Wilson - back from the dead - joins forces with Cheshire and Speedy to foil their plans. Lots of big guns and explosive action in an above average issue. (PCP) 7

Detective Comics 655 <+ -> (Dixon & Netzer + Hanna) Pre-teen gangs from Gotham's organised crime community make a bid for control of the city's underworld. This issue defies both logic and credibility. (PCP) 4

Doom Patrol 63 <+ -> (Morrison & Case) The Doom Patrol return to rescue Crazy Jane from the real world in the last issue of Grant Morrison's run. Richard Case turns in his best art job to date, and there's a preview of new writer Rachel Pollack... she'll have a tough job following Morrison! (RH) 8

Eclipso 4 <+ -> (Giffen & Fleming, McDonnell, Kryssing + McCarthy) A painfully dull episode follows Hero's attempt to infiltrate Eclipso's South American domain. McDonnell is a poor replacement for the Valiant-bound Bart Sears. (PCP) 5

<+ -> Luke McDonnell does a passable Bart Sears impersonation (working from Giffen's imaginative layouts) as the Bartman moves on to Valiant. Bruce Gordon and company continue their attack on Island Eclipso, while the man himself chats with Darkseid on... ahem, the Dark Side of the Moon. (RH) 7

Flash 73 <+> (Waid & Laroque + Richardson) Wally and Jay spread some Christmas cheer in a seasonal offering which serves up a surprise for Barry Allen followers. (PCP) 6

<+> A well told race against time story that sees the first and third (current) Flashes teaming up. Surprise ending comes from the unexpected return of Barry Allen. It's a dangerous move, but provided it's not a hoax, it will please a lot of the Silver Age Flash fans. (RH) 9

Green Arrow: The Wonder Year 1 (Grell & Grell, Morrow) Flashback to the Green Arrow's origin and his first adventure as a super-hero. Routine pot-boiler which entails the usual political machinations. (PCP) 4

In 1972, Oliver Queen becomes the Green Arrow amidst a storm of political scandal and intrigue. As always, Grell's scripting is sparse, yet it succeeds in capturing the spirit of the time well. And Queen's transformation from wealthy playboy to socially conscious do-gooder is full of adventure and subtle humour. (RH) 9

Green Arrow 71 <+ -> (Grell & Hoberg + Nyberg) A two minute read, as Green Arrow unwittingly unleashes a black panther on to the streets of Seattle. However, it does feature some beautifully coloured artwork by Hoberg, Nyberg and Lacquemont, a team who deserve some recognition, for a change. (RH) 7

Green Lantern: Mosaic 9 <+ -> (Jones & Beachum) Writer Jones preaches that we should respect - uh, the beliefs of other societies. Nice to see Mark Beachum in mainstream comics once again, but is Jones being a bizarro, or what? (RH) 6

Green Lantern 35 <+> (Jones & Bright + Tanghal) A terse plot-line revels in lies and half-truths as more secrets of the Guardians are revealed. (PCP) 7

Green Lantern 36 <-> (Jones & Ha + Tanghal) Disappointing storyline, based on the ridiculous premise that nobody in Hal Jordan's family can guess that he is Green Lantern, even when he changes right in front of their very eyes... Gerard Jones seems to be doing too much lately, and the once interesting Lantern books are really suffering. Take a break, Gerard, it's time for a new writer. (RH)4

Hellblazer 62 (Ennis & Dillon) Constantine digs up one of his ancestors for a chat when his niece dabbles with the black arts. Gruesomely entertaining, for a change.... This issue contains a Death insert on the subject of Aids, by Gaiman and McKean. Constantine appears in an amusing cameo. (PCP) 5

<+> With the addition of artists Steve Dillon to the Constantine crew, this book is on a roll, ready to join the Vertigo ranks next month. John fights to prevent his niece following in the family line of business and digs up an old relative for a chat! Frightening and funny. (RH) 9

Justice League America 71 <+ -> (Jurgens & Velluto + Burchett) The League inducts three new members and a new team leader. It's more fun watching grass grow than reading this... (PCP) 4

<+ -> A bunch of misfits, including the Ray, Black Condor and Wonder Woman join forces as the new JLA, in the wake of the recent tragedy. Guest penciller Velluto does a fine job, but as always, the art is finisher Rich Burchett's. A solid super-hero book. (RH) 8

Justice League Europe 46 <-> (Jones & Randall + Elliot) Sonar's vaulting ambition leads him to attempt a takeover of the former Soviet Union. Poor plotting means that this story lacks any conviction. (PCP) 3

Justice League Europe 46 <+> (Jones & Randall + Elliot) The members of the JLE are picked off, one at a time, by Sonar. Call in the JL reserves, such as Black Canary and Mr Miracle, along with the JSA and - whoever else DC can find - to fill this otherwise unsubstantial storyline with guest "stars". A ploy Marvel itself would be pleased with. (RH) 7

Legion of Super-Heroes 39 <+> (Bierbaum & Immonen, Dell, Giffen + Dell) A convoluted story-line with rapid scene shifting accompanies the continuing exodus from the devastated Earth. Effective visuals from newcomer Stuart Immonen are a pleasing change from the outgoing Keith Giffen's work. (PCP) 6

Legion of Super-Heroes 40 <+++> (Bierbaums & Immonen) The adult Legion meets its younger counterpart, and at last this book gets back into its stride. Tom and Mary Bierbaum, now free from the restraints imposed by Keith Giffen, show that they can produce concise, sensitive scripts. And the pencilling, by newcomer Stuart Immonen, is just what the series needs to attract additional readers. (PHB) 9

L.E.G.I.O.N. '93 48 <+> (Kitson & Lawliss + Parks) Stealth goes undercover to smash a slave ring. Tight storytelling, featuring the return of Ig'nea, sadly let down by poor visualisation. (PCP) 6

L.E.G.I.O.N. '93 49 <-> (Waid & Kitson + Smith) The brutal and pointless death of Stealth, written without emotion or

even an attempt at an hero's death is used merely as a way of drawing attention to the fact that next month is issue 50 of the book. A parlous state for this once great team title. (RH) 4

Sandman 46 <+++> (Gaiman & Thompson, McKean) Destruction reciting poetry while Death encourages Dream to make up with Delirium? What makes this issue, however, is Gaiman and McKean's tongue-in-cheek Aids insert, featuring Death herself and an embarrassed John Constantine. (DK) 9

Scarlett 1 (Joyner & Wilson + Fern) A teenager's family is murdered in a confusing plot that involves lots of weirdos and vampires. The hows and whys are left for subsequent issues, though this opener offers little to entice readers back for more. (PCP) 4

Shade 32 <+ -> (Milligan & Doran) However good the story, this comic loses something without the peerless Chris Bachalo, comicdom's best working artist. Doran tries, but lacks the subtlety to pull it off. And even though writer Peter Milligan seems to be slowing down of late, the sequence where Hemingway and Joyce read about their own deaths as Shade transforms into a woman is alone worth the price of purchase. (SM) 7

Stanley and his Mother 1 (Foglio & Fiala) Return of the precursor to **Calvin & Hobbes** after a 20-year hiatus. Set firmly in DC continuity, it draws on Gaiman's **Sandman** for inspiration. Dark humour, here at its very best. (PCP) 8

Superman: The Man of Steel 20 <-> (L. Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) DC is starting to run out of steam on the Super-death aftermath, with this funeral issue being little more than an excuse to sprinkle big name guest stars (including Bill Clinton!) into the mix. Meanwhile, Bogdanove's artwork takes a sudden turn towards a Walt Simonson imitation. (RH) 6

Superman 76 <-> (Jurgens & Breeding) Sequel to the Christmas story, *Metropolis Mailbag*, this issue tells pretty much the same sort of story, but without the boy scout extra. I can only take so much of this "honouring the dead" business before I lose interest. And Guy Gardner is far too likeable - way out of character! (RH) 6

Swamp Thing 128 <+ -> (Collins & Eaton + DeMulder) Nancy Collins is a powerful storyteller; brisk, engaging and to the point, she's perfectly matched here by the exquisite, graceful art of Eaton and DeMulder, making the current run of this title just about the best it's ever been - and that includes the highly regarded Alan Moore issues. A classic int he making, and a must for "serious" comics fans. (SM) 10

Timber Wolf 3 <+ -> (Gordon & Phillips + Gordon) More in-fighting fails to propel this ailing plot-line, despite the guest appearance by the Creeper. The unsympathetic characters here succeed in negating any interest or concern in their stories. (PCP) 3

Valor 4 <+ -> (Fleming & Bright, Scott + Vancata) Valor fights Lobo. Tedium sets in rather earlier than it usually does in these sort of confrontations. L.E.G.I.O.N. makes a guest appearance, for what that's worth. (PCP) 2

<+ -> Lobo is finally given a respectable opponent as Valor takes him through his paces and the main man gets mightily annoyed. One of the best Lobo stories I've read, this issue is somewhat let down by the art, which looks as if someone went over the camera-ready work with an eraser before sending it off to the printer. (RH) 7

Vertigo Preview (various) DC's newest attempt to unify and rationalise its "mature readers" line of product. A tall order, hinting at things to come from **Death** through **Shade** to **Sandman**. (DK) 8

Wonder Woman 71 <+> (Messner-Loebs & Collins + Tanghal) Wonder Woman finally returns to Earth after six months in space.. This book continues its slow and gradual improvement, and things can only really get better now that Diana is back home. Also, for good or bad, this is Paris Collins' last issue as artist, so all change next month. (RH) 7

MARVEL COMICS

Amazing Spider-Man 374 <+ -> (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberline) Venom returns and sets his sights on Parker's parents, while continuing to do bad impressions of Hannibal Lector. Next issue we're promised that there will be a change in Spider-Man and Venom's relationship - which, it has to be said, is a welcome relief, given the fact that we've seen all this before... (RH) 7

Darkhold 5 <- -> (Cooper & Case, Bigley + McKenna) Failing to realise the promise shown in earlier issues, this title is slipping further into cross-over territory, as both Punisher and Ghost Rider show up and dominate the issue so much that the regular heroes are hardly seen! Richard Case's art is wasted on stuff like this. (RH) 3

Doom 2099 2 <+ -> (J. Moore & Broderick + Beatty) Doom begins his battle to wrest control of Latveria from Tiger Wylde. Noble and determined, Doom is an engaging central character, but Moore is wisely creating a strong supporting cast, some of which we may *even* have seen before (?). (RH) 7

Hulk 402 <-> (David & Duursama + Farmer) The Hulk and the Juggernaut engage in a mindless slugfest in a tropical rainforest. From Peter David, this kind of mediocre stuff is disappointing, to say the least. (RH) 5

Hulk: Future Imperfect 1 (David & Perez) Another post-apocalyptic future. Another story of a character battling his darker side... My Enemy, Myself! Despite a sparkling script and lavish artwork, I can't help but feel this idea's been done to death in the past - and **Future Imperfect** offers nothing new. (RH) 6

Namor 35 <-> (Harris & Lee) Tiger Shark gets a Nineties' update, returning to fight Namor, looking like a cross between Sabretooth and Venom. Jae Lee's art continues to be impressive, with striking layout and some savage design elements, but a little too dark and muddy for my liking, this issue. (RH) 6

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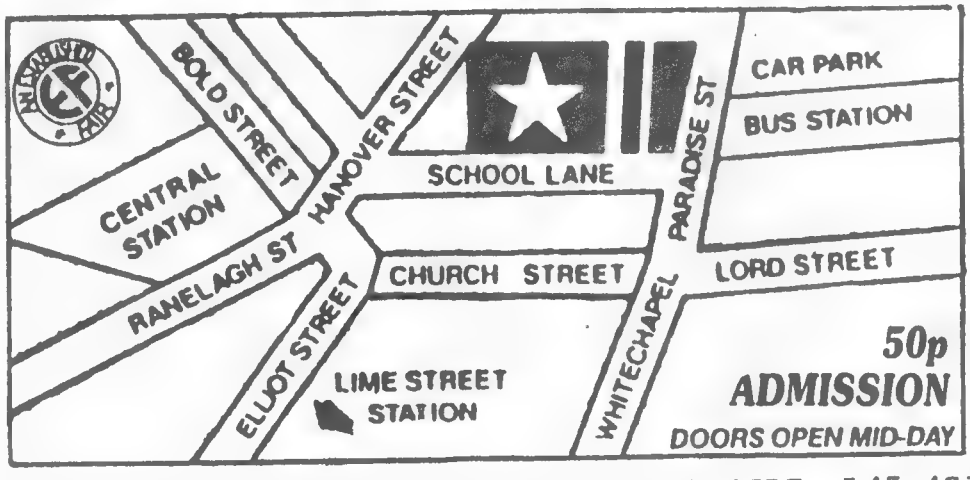

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Morgan + Palmiotti) More interesting than your average 21st century Punisher story because of the science fiction elements. But this character is still a little too close to the original (his origin being virtually identical). Nevertheless, this is a promising if violent opening - but then, what else would you expect? (RH) 7

Spectacular Spider-Man 197 <-> (DeMatteis & Buscema) Spider-Man and the X-Men engage in a good old fashioned team-up - unlike the violent, tear-'em-up partnership currently popular - against the DeMatteis bad guy Professor Power. Nostalgic in tone, but for all that, less enjoyable than this title usually is. (RH) 7

Spider-Man 31 <+> (Nocenti & Marrinan, DelaRosa + Hudson) A conclusion of sorts to Nocenti's three-parter about the inhabitants of Mad Dog Ward. Lots of loose ends are left dangling and the question of lies, explored in the first two parts is virtually ignored. The art is painfully simplistic. (RH) 4

Spider-Man 2099 5 (David & Leonardi + Williamson) A prolonged fight scene prevents any real plot development this month, and although Peter David's scripting is just as witty as usual, it's something of a disappointment in comparison to the rest of the series. (RH) 6

Venom 1 (Michelinie & Bagley, DelaRosa + Milgrom) High price, glossy paper, shiny cover... none of this makes up for the lack of story here. On the other hand, Venom kills people, looks cool, has *big* teeth, talks all the *time* about eating entrails... this book is bound to be hot! (RH) 5

Web of Spider-Man 98 <+ -> (Kavanagh & Savuik, Yanigher + Hudson) More personality-free bad guys shoot each other up, while various members of the supporting cast skulk around mysteriously, while Richard Fisk, son of the Kingpin, meets a man who will change his life. Dull, dull. (RH) 4

INDEPENDENTS

Archer & Armstrong 7 <+> (Valiant; Windsor-Smith & Nichols + Wiacek) Laugh-a-minute John Ford type brawl erupts when some black marketeers try to eliminate aid-seeking adventurers. (PCP) 8

Blanche Goes to New York (Dark Horse; Geary) Geary's stylised, turn of the century odysseys are always a treat. He has a genuine feel for the period, which he painstakingly recreates through his quaint, quirky pencils. A wonderful tale of strange creatures and mysterious goings-on lurking just beneath the surface of everyday normality. (SM) 9

Femforce Frightbook 1 (AC; various) More 1950s horror and sf reprints with Femforce pin-ups provide a pleasing diversion from the norm, with art by Bob Powell and Howard Nostrand. It's the Frankenstein reprint (Dick Briefer) that holds more interest for Femforce fans, featuring a guest spot by Lady Lugger linking the past with the present, although it's odd that the strip has been run without amendment to the now Frightenstein trade mark description. (PCP) 6

Femforce 55 (AC; Black & Heike + Gorby) Alizarin Crimson, at the Capricorn Demon God's request, unleashes a plague on Earth. Part one of a three-part storyline focusing on Synn and Nightraven (Who? Hello, Marvel legal dept calling). (PCP) 5

Harbinger 15 <+!> (Valiant; Fontenot & Simpson) This issue, there's a further development in Harada's characterisation and more from the Eggbreakers. It looks as if Sting's team may have two new members: Stronghold and Livewire. The art is moving away from the Valiant house style and towards that of Marvel - and here it definitely works. The storyline is becoming much more entertaining, with the characters becoming more rounded and more substantial. (PHB) 8

The Haunt of Fear 2 (Cochran/EC; Feldstein, Craig, Wood, Ingels and Kamen) Reprint of a 1950 EC horror title. Jack Kamen excepted, the stellar cast of artists were still developing their skills at this stage and the gleeful black humour that was to make this title a classic is absent. Of historical interest only. (MK) 4

Jungle Girls 10 (AC; various) Tara goes skinny dipping, observed by the voyeuristic Captain Video in an all-new feature by Black and Bridges - which turns out to be far too short to be at all effective. The usual Cave Girl, Tiger Girl and Nyoka reprints round out a less than thrilling experience. (PCP) 3

Next Men 9 <-> (Dark Horse; Byrne) As captives of Russia's Next Men team, Jazz and Nathan are drawn together in a pleasingly visualised combination. More interesting than that, however, is the flip-up back up story of *M4*, a new superhuman addition to Byrne's Next World. (RH) 7

Spawn 6 <+> (Image; McFarlane) Villainous cyborg Overkill clashes with Spawn in a city-wrecking action issue. Beautifully drawn, as always, but lacking in everything but action. Bring on the *real* writers... (RH) 5

Thirteen O'Clock (Dark Horse; Sala) Unfortunately, Sala's bizarre and much imitated drawing style can't sustain interest over a full length story, which is in itself a rather tired and flimsy noir-ish pastiche of the horror/detective genre. (SM) 6

Virus 1 (of 4; Dark Horse; Pfarrer & Cobb) Slightly better than the average ghost ship yarn, a sort of **Aliens** on the high seas, swept along by Howard Cobb's unpretentious pencils and Rachelle Menash's gentle computer colours. (SM) 7

Weird Science-Fantasy 2 (Cochran/EC; Feldstein, Wood, Orlando, Krigstein and Williamson) EC science fiction at its best. The remorseless exposure of human weakness in each story is propelled by the text - but the contributions of master artists on peak form just about prevent it from being merely an over-wordy tract. (MK) 6

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Wayne Massop) Wayne Massop's graphic novel is more than timely, it's a thoughtful, provocative and necessary educational aid. What I found most revealing, however, was the fact that Malcolm X's life was a truly modern tragedy. A man ahead of his own time, he was profoundly conscious of the importance of image: the photographs reproduced in this book show just how carefully X's persona was assembled for public consumption. Sound stuff, with solid production values; the only thing I felt less than comfortable with was the artwork, which felt lightweight in comparison to the well-paced, substantial script. (SB) **8**

SMALL PRESS

The Evil Prince (Ganymede Comics; £1 from Paul Costello, 26 Princess Street, Oxford OX4 1DD) A violent fairy tale, which seems to snipe at the morality of Grimm and Andersen -without offering anything of similar substance. Painstakingly but scrappily drawn, with a jokey script, this induces nothing but puzzlement and a vague feeling of dissatisfaction. (MK) **3**

Girlfrenzy 3 <+> (anthology; £1.84 from Girlfrenzy, BM Senior, London WC1N 3XX) The latest issue of this "women's magazine for people" - packed with comics, articles, interviews, listings (including a useful roundup of small press comics by women) is as cheerful, witty and informative as ever. (MK) **8**

Nevers-Edge 3 (£1.34 from Chris Webster, 396 Brixton Road, London SE5 9AW) Webster's grim saga of despair and debauchery in bedsitland is intentionally uncomfortable to read. His harsh, stark artwork suits this existential examination of the dark side of humanity, which horrifies more than gore ever could. EC without the chuckles. (MK) **7**

Tales from Sleaze Castle 1 (Gratuitous Bunny; £1.60 from T. Wiley and D. McKinnon, 33 Windsor Drive, Cleadon, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR6 7SY) Intended as a prequel to the intricate, ongoing **Sleaze Castle** sf epic, this confuses as much as it clarifies, but is still a treat. With very high art, script and production standards, this is one of the slickest small press titles available. (MK) **8**

Testosterone City (Starhead Comix; 85p from Mark Pawson, PO Box 664, London E3 4QR) Pawson produces his own booklets and labels and imports a number of self-published titles by Fantagraphics creators. This "mini-comic", by Peter Bagge, satirises heavy metal kidz with a ferocity that will satisfy **Neat Stuff** fans who find **Hate** too tame. (MK) **7**

Vogarth 14 <-> (75p from Ben Hunt, 43 West Cliff, Preston PR1 8HX) A slightly rushed looking issue in which the regular cast of crazies visit a space-age Preston in search of a party, getting tangled up in a Batman parody along the way. The plot's as crazy as it sounds, the art's loose but skilful, the dialogue's uproarious - and this isn't even one of the best issues! (MK) **5**

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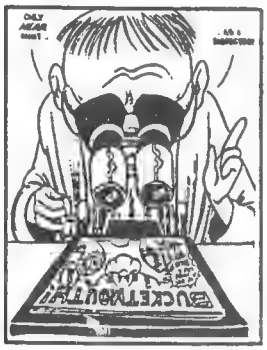

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1 ..... 3.00
2-5 ..... 2.00
6-10 ..... 1.50
11-24 45 ..... 1.00

Hawkmoon: Jewel in the Skull 1 2 ..... 1.50

Jon Sable (Grell) 1 ..... 1.75
3-6 8-10 12-19 21-24 ... 0.75
26-29 31-38 ..... 0.75

Lone Wolf & Cub 1 .... 5.00
2 ..... 3.00
3 ..... 2.25
4 5 6 8 9 ..... 1.95
11 17 18 ..... 1.75

Meta 4 1 (Gibson) 1.25

Nexus (1-3 Capital Comics)
1 (clr series; Baron, Rude) 5.50
2 (origin), 3 ..... 4.50
7-10 ..... 2.50
11 16-23 27 43 ..... 1.25

Psychoblast 6 ..... 0.75

Sable: Return of the Hunter
1-3 (Wolfman) 1.25

Shatter 1-4 ..... 1.25

Starslayer (see Pacific)
10 (1st Grimjack) 1.50
11-13 16-18 (all Grimjack) 1.25
19-21 23-25 27-29 33 ... 0.75

Whisper
1 (Capital Comics) 5.00
2 (Capital Comics) 4.00
1 (First Comics) 1.75

ATLAS COMICS

Demon Hunter
1 (Buckler) fn- 0.75

Destructor
1 (Goodwin, Ditko, Wood) 1.75
2 (Goodwin, Ditko, Wood) 1.50
3 (Goodwin, Ditko) sm tear 0.50
4 (Conway, Ditko) 1.00

Grim Ghost (Fleisher & Colon)
1 vg 2vg 3fn 0.75

Iron Jaw
1 (Fleisher, Sekowsky) .. 1.50

Phoenix
1 (Rovin, Amendola) 1.25

Planet of Vampires
(Hama, Broderick, McLaughlin)
1 2 ..... 1.25

Scorpion 1 2 (Chaykin) . 1.75

Targitt 1 (Nostrand) 1.00

Wulf the Barbarian
1 (Hama & Jansen) 1.50

RED CIRCLE

All issues VFN+ to NM unless otherwise stated

Blue Beetle 1 (Ditko) g .. 2.50

Charlton Action
11 (Static by Ditko) 1.25

Charlton Premiere (1967)
1 (Boyette) vfn- 1.75

Doomsday + 1 (by Byrne)
1 2 4 5 6 ..... 1.75
9 10 11 ..... 1.00

Dr Graves
74 (1985; Ditko) 1.00

E-Man (original 1970s series)
2 ..... 4.00
6 (Byrne Rog 2000) 3.00
slight s/s o/wise vfn+
7 (Byrne Rog 2000) 4.00
8 ..... 3.00
10 vg (Byrne Rog 2000) . 1.00

Fightin' 5
35 fn+ 1.50
48 49 vfn- 0.75

Judo Master (McLaughlin)
89 (1966) fn+ 2.00
90 g+ 0.50
91 v 0.75
92 vfn (Giordano Sg Steel) 2.50
93 fn (Giordano Sg Steel) 2.00
96 vfn- (Giordano Sg Steel) 2.50
97 fn+ (Giordano Sg Steel) 2.00

Thane of Bagarth (1985)
1 (Aparo) 1.00

Vengeance Squad (Pete Morisi)
1 vfn- 2.25
2 fn+ 3vfn- 1.50
4 fn 1.00
5 fn+ 6fn+ 1.25
(all contain Staton's brilliant Mike Mauser strip)

Wyatt Earp 34 (Jan 1960) 1.00
water stained o/wise fn+
65 vg+ 0.75

RED CIRCLE

All issues VFN+ to NM

Black Hood (Alex Toth art)
1 2 3 ..... 1.00

Blue Ribbon Comics
1 (repr Fly 1; Kirby) 2.00
2 (Mr Justice, Nino) 1.00
3 (Steel Stirling) 1.00
4 (Fly; Buckler) 1.00
5 (Shield, Simon & Kirby) 2.00
6 (The Fox; Ayers, Buckler) 1.00
7 (Black Hood, Adams) .. 1.50
9 (Agents of Atlantis) ... 1.00
10 (Fly; Powell? reprints) 1.00
14 (Web & Jaguar teamup) 1.00

The Comet (Red Circle)
2 (Infantino & Nino) 1.00

The Fly (Red Circle)
1 (Steranko cover) 1.00
2 (Steranko cover; Ditko) 1.00
3-8 (Ditko art) 0.75

Lancelot Strong: The Shield
1 2 ..... 1.00

Madhouse (1975)
97 (Thorne, McWilliams) . 1.00

Mighty Crusaders (Red Circle)
1-5 7 8 (Buckler) 1.00

The Original Shield
2-4 (Dick Ayers) 0.75

Sorcery (1974)
5 (Morrow) 1.00

Steel Stirling
4-7 (Kanigher, Barreto) .. 1.00

MARVEL

Akira (Epic) 23 vfn 2.25

Alien Legion
vol 1: 2-14 19 vfn 1.50
vol 2: 3 5 9 10 vfn 1.25
vol 2: 15 fn 0.75

Alpha Flight 2 vfn- 2.00
3-5 vfn+ 1.75
6-10nm 2.00
11nm 3.00
12nm 3.50
14 15 16nm 2.50
17 (X-Men)nm 4.00
18-22nm 1.25
24 (giant)nm 1.75
25-27 29nm 1.25
30nm 50 (giant)nm 1.50
51 (1st Jim Lee mutant comic) nm 5.50
52 (Wolverine) nm 2.50
54-56 58-60 nm 1.50
61 62 64 (Jim Lee) nm .. 1.75
63 65 66 71 73 nm 1.25
Annuals: 1 2 nm 1.50

Amazing Adventures vol 2
War of the Worlds issues:
19 (Chaykin) fn- 1.50
20v 1.00
22vfn 23fn+ 24fn+ 2.00
26fn 27v 28fn+ 0.75
29 30 31 vfn 1.25
33-39 nm 1.50

Amazing Adventures $4.95
Special #1 (Golden, Claremont, Veitch) nm 3.00

Amazing High Adventures
2(Paul Smith), 3(Sev) vfn 2.00

Astonishing Tales v 1
2 (Wood & Kirby) vfn- ... 3.00
9 fg 0.50
10 (B Smith) vfn 2.50
11 (Gil Kane) fn 1.50
17v 0.50
18vfn 19fn 0.75
25 (1st Deathlok)vfn- .. 20.00

Avengers
7 fn- ,corner repair 12.00
20vg 8.00
21vg- 5.00
26fn+ 7.50
27vg 5.00
28vg- 3.50
29vg 30vg 4.50
31vg- 32vg- 3.50
33vfn- 8.50
34vg 6.00
35v 37v s/s 38vg- 3.50
36fn 39fn 40fn 5.00
41fn- 4.00
42fn+ 4.75
44vg (off one staple) 2.25
45v 47 vfn s/s 3.25
46vfn- 48vfn- 49fn+ 4.75
51vfn 52vfn 5.00
53vg 2.50
54vfn 3.00
55fn+ s/s 3.00
56vfn 5.00
58fn (origin of Vision) ... 9.50
61 g 1.00
62 fn- 3.00
66 fn light s/s 2.50
67 fn+ 3.50
68 fn s/s 3.00
69v 70v+ s/s 2.50
72fn+ 73fn+ 74fn+ 75fn+ 3.50
76vg- 86fn, sl tear 2.25
77vfn 78vfn 84vfn 4.00
79vg+ 81vg 82vg+ 83vg+ 3.00
80fn+ 89fn 3.50
90vg 3.00
101vg+ 103vg+ 3.00
105fn sl s/s 3.00
102fn 104fn 4.50
106 vg+ sl sub crease .. 3.00
107 (Starlin) vfn- 6.00
108fn 4.25
109vg 3.75
110 (X-Men) vfn 6.00
111 (X-Men cameo) vg .. 4.50
112vg 113vfn sl sub cr .. 3.50
114 vg- 1.50
115fn+ 3.50
117vfn 118vfn 4.00
119vfn sl corner tear 2.50
120vfn 4.00
123 129 130 132 all vfn . 5.00
136nm- 5.00
144-147 149-152 all nm- 5.00
153-162 all vfn+ to nm- . 1.75
167 168 nm (Guardians) . 4.00
169 nm- 2.00
173 nm 3.00
181 184-190 191 all nm . 1.50
192-199 all nm- 1.00
200 (giant) vfn+ 2.75
201-203 nm- 1.00
204-205 nm- 2.00
206-224 nm- 0.75
225-227 nm- 1.75
228-249 nm- 1.00
250 (giant) nm 1.75
251-260 262 282 nm 0.75
284-286 nm 0.75
282-287 292-299 nm ... 0.75
300 (giant) 2.00
301-304 307 309-311 nm 0.60
313 347 (giant) nm 0.50
Annuals: 8 (Perez) 9 nm- 4.00
10 (1st Rogue) nm- 5.00
12-14 15-18 nm- 1.75

Avengers West Coast -- see West Coast Avengers

Balder the Brave (mini)
1 nm- 1.50
2-4 nm- 1.00

Battletide (UK; Death's Head)
1 nm 1.00

Beauty & the Beast (mini)
1-4 nm- (Beast/Dazzler) . 1.25

Bizarre Adventures (b&w)
#26 (King Kull, Bolton) .. 3.50
#27 (new X-Men strips by Perez, Janson, etc) 3.00
#29 (Stephen King story by #Simonson) 2.00
#31 (strips by Miller, Reese, Sienkiewicz, Byrne) ... 2.50
34 (Howard the Duck) nm 1.00

Black Dragon (Bolton)
1 nm- 4.00
2-6 ..... 2.50

Black Goliath 2-5 vfn . 0.50

Black Knight 3 4 nm . 1.00

Black Panther 1-4 nm . 0.75
7-13 15 vfn+ 0.75
(mini) 1 2 4nm 1.00

Black Panther: Panther's Prey (squarebound, mini)
1-3 ($4.95) nm 2.00

Blood: A Tale (squarebound, Jon J Muth, $4.95) 1-4 nm 2.50

Cadillacs & Dinosaurs
(Epic) 1-6 vfn+ 1.75

Captain America
126vg 130vg 1.00
132vfn- 135vfn- 3.00
137v- (Spider-man) 1.50
144vfn 4.00
145vg 2.75
146vg, s/s, wrinkled 1.00
150vg, sl wrinkled 2.00
152vfn 4.00
158vg, wrinkled 1.50
159 160 162 163 165 vfn+ 2.50
166fn sl wrinkled 1.00
167-171fn+ 1.50
172vg sl wrinkled (X-Men) 3.50
177vfn- 178vfn- 1.50
179 fn scribble on cvr 0.50
180 1st Nomad vg 2.00
181fn+ 182fn+ 1.50
183nm- 2.75
184 fn+ sl s/s 1.00
185-194 vfn+ 0.75
196vg 198vfn 199vfn ... 0.75
200fn s/s 0.50
201-215 217-240 vfn-nm 0.75
216g 0.25
224-228 230-238 all nm- . 0.75
240 244 323nm 0.75
340 343-347 351 352nm . 0.60
383 (giant, gold cover)nm 2.00
400 (giant) nm 1.50
Annuals: 3 (Kirby) fn+ .. 2.50
5 7 10 vfn+ 1.00
CA Goes to War against Drugs: 1 nm 1.50

Captain Britain (UK; Alan Davis art) #2 3 ..... 2.50
#6-14 ..... 2.00

Captain Britain Summer Special #1980 (UK; Colan, Buscema) 2.00

Captain Confederacy (Epic)
1 nm 1.00

Captain Justice 1 nm . 0.50

Captain Marvel 8 vg .. 3.00
9 fn- 3.00
9 vg s/s 1.00
10 vg 11 vg 1.50
12 13 vfn 3.00
14 vg, stained cvr 0.50
15 fn 2.00
16 v- 17(Gil Kane) g+ .. 1.25
18-20 vfn (Gil Kane) 3.50
21 (Gil Kane) v+ 2.75
(Starlin #25-34):
25 (Thanos cameo) vfn . 9.50
26 (2nd Thanos) vfn- .. 11.00
27 (3rd Thanos) fn 7.00
28 fn- 4.50
29 vfn s/s 3.50
30 fn (Thanos cameo) ... 5.00
34 v 2.00
35-56 58 59 60 61 62 vfn+ 1.00

Captain Marvel Special
1 (female) vfn+ 1.25

Car Warriors (Epic)
1 2 4 nm (Dillon art) 1.00

The Cat, Claws of
3 (Everett) vfn 1.50
4 (part Starlin) fn 1.50

Champions 2vg 0.50
3-10 vfn 1.00
11-13 (Byrne) vfn 3.00
17 (Byrne) vfn+ 5.00

Cholly & Flytrap, New Adventures ($4.95)
Book 1 (Suydam) nm ... 3.50

Clive Barker's Nightbreed
1 (Baikie) nm 1.75

Cloak & Dagger (mini)
1 nm 1.25
2 3 nm 1.00
4 (rare) nm 1.50

Cloak & Dagger
1-9 11 nm- 1.00

Cloak & Dagger (Mutant Misadventures of) 1-5nm 1.00

Comet Man (mini)
1-6 nm- 0.75

Complete Spider-Man (UK)
12 (Wolv, McF) nm **0.75**

Conan the Barbarian
119-149 158 159 162 nm 0.60
164 165 177 178 182 nm 0.50
188 198 201-203 207 nm 0.50
209 212 219 nm 0.50
Annuals 3-4 nm 1.50
5-7 9 11 12 nm 1.00

Conan the King 33 vfn+ 1.00

Coyote 16 (final) vfn+ .. 1.00

Crash Ryan 1-4 ..... 1.00

Creatures on the Loose
17 (Gullivar Jones) vfn- .. 1.50
part faded cover 1" strip

Damage Control
v1 1 nm- 0.75
v2 1 nm- (Kyle Baker) ... 1.25

Dakota North 1 2 ..... 0.50

Daredevil
19v+ 20v+ 6.50
21 fn 9.00
22 vfn- 10.50
23 fn- 24fn- 6.50
25 fn 8.00
26 g+ 27g+ (off 1 staple) . 3.00
28 fn- subn crease 5.00
29 vg- 4.00
31 fn line thru price 5.00
32vg 33vg+ s/s 34vg s/s . 2.50
35 g s/s 1.00
36 vg- 1.50
37 vfn- 8.00
38 vg 39 vg s/s 2.00
40 fn+ 4.00
41 vfn 48vfn 49vfn 5.00
50 fn small s/s 3.50
51 (Barry Smith) vfn 7.50
52 (Smith) vfn- 7.00
53 (origin; Smith) vfn 8.50
54 fn+ (Spider-Man) 4.50
56 vg (Death's Head) ... 3.00
57 vg- 1.50
58 fn 3.00
59 vg sl tear 60fn s/s .. 1.50
61 vg 62vg 63vg 64vg+ . 2.00
65 vg- 66vg- 67vg s/s .. 1.25
68 vg 69vg- 1.50
70 vfn 73vfn 3.00
71 g+ 74vg 1.50
75 vfn 3.00
76 vg 77fn s/s 81vg s/s . 1.75
82 vg s/s scarce 2.50
85 vg s/s 86vg- s/s 1.25
87 vfn 88vfn- 2.75
89 vg+ 90vg+ 2.00
91 vg- 93vg off 1 staple . 1.25
92 fn 3.50
94 vg 95fn sm scratch .. 2.00
96-98 fn 2.00
101 vfn 2.75
102 vg 103vg 1.50
104 vfn 2.50
106v 1.25
107 fn 108fn 2.00
109 fn sl subn crease ... 3.00
111 vfn+ (rare) 4.75
112 fn water crease 1.25
115-118 vfn 1.75
119 fn 120-122fn+ 1.50
123vfn 126-130vfn 1.75
132 (origin & 2nd Bullseye) vfn 8.50
133fn 134-137fn+ 1.50
139 (double-upsidedown covers!) nm 3.50
140 141 144 145 all nm- . 1.75
148 149 nm- 1.75
150 (Paladin) fn+ 3.00
166 167 (both Miller;vfn) . 5.00
168 (1st Elektra; Mllr) nm 14.00
172 vfn (Miller) 5.00
173-175 (Miller; nm-) ... 3.75
179 nm (Miller; Elektra) . 3.75
179 vg 1.50
183 187 188 all vfn+ 2.25
190 (giant; Elektra) 4.50
192 197 199 all nm- 1.25
219 (Miller Buscema) ... 2.25
223 (Secret Wars II) nm .. 2.00
227 (Miller & Mazz) nm .. 5.00
229 vfn water wrinkle ... 2.50
236 vfn 1.25
240 vfn small s/s 1.00
247 nm 0.75
248 (Wolv; vfn sl crse) .. 2.25
251 nm 2.00
254 (origin & 1st Typhoid Mary story) nm 8.00
255 nm (T-Mary) 4.00
258 nm 2.00
258 fn- 1.00
259nm 260nm 1.75
262-264 266 267 all nm . 1.25
270-292nm 294nm 295nm 1.00
Annuals: 2fn 3.50
4 (1976) fn sl wrinkle 1.75
4 (1989 ! Jim Lee, Whilce Portacio art) nm 3.75
7 (1990) nm 1.00

Daredevils (UK)
#7 (Moore & Davis Captain Britain + poster) 3.00

Dazzler 1 (X-Men) nm . 1.50
2 (X-Men) nm 1.00
3-20 vfn+ to nm 0.50
21 giant nm 0.75
22 (Rogue, Angel) 1.50
23-28 30 31 nm 0.50
32 (Inhumans) nm 1.00
36 37 both nm 1.00
39 41 both nm 1.50

Deadly Foes of Spider-Man (mini) 1 nm 1.25

Deadly Hands of Kung Fu (b&w magazine format)
#4 (1st Sons of Tiger) .. 2.00
#2 8 9 (Perez) 2.00
#12 (Perez, ts) 1.00
#16 18 19 (Perez) 2.00
#20 (Perez) 2.00
#22 (Giffen White Tiger begins) 2.00
#29 31 ..... 2.00
Annual 1974 ..... 3.50
(Adkins, Buscema, Adams)

Deathlok (current)
1 nm 3.00
2 (Forge) nm 1.95
3-5 nm 1.50
6nm 7nm (both Punisher) 2.00
8nm 9nm 1.50
10nm 11nm (Gh Rider) .. 2.00
12-18 nm 1.25

Death's Head (UK)
vol 1 1nm 7.50
vII mini: 1 nm (1st print) . 5.50
2nm 3nm 4nm 3.50
II series: 1 (X-Men) nm .. 1.50

Defenders
6 (Surfer) fn+ 5.00
7 vg 9vg 2.50
11 (Surfer) nm- 7.00
12 nm- 5.00
13 vfn small crease 4.00
14 vfn 4.50
15-16 (Prof X; both vfn-) 4.50
19 20 22-25 all vfn 2.50
27 (1st Starhawk; Guardians of Galaxy) nm 7.00
30-38 vfn+ 1.50
39 vg (off one staple; Hulk) 0.75
40-54 all vfn+ to nm 1.25
55-70 all non-distrib, nm 1.50
71 72 76-91 all nm 1.25
92-95 (Son of Satan) nm 1.50
96 (Ghost Rider) nm 2.00
97-99 Son of Satan) nm . 1.25
100 (giant; Surfer, Son of Satan) nm 2.00
101 (Surfer) nm 1.25
102-124 nm 0.75
125 (giant; new team) .. 1.50
126-146 148 nm 0.75
150 (giant) nm 1.50
151 nm 0.75
Giant Size 1v 1.50
(broken spine)

Dracula Graphic Novel (Muth) 5.00

Digitek (UK) 1 nm 1.50

Dr Strange vol 2:
51 (Marshall Rogers & Terry Austin) nm 1.00
60 (Green & Austin) nm . 1.50
vol 3: 2-5 6 8 nm 1.50
9 (Darkhoid) nm 2.50
10 (Morbius returns) nm . 4.00
12 nm 13 nm 1.50

NEW YEAR COMICS CLEARANCE

14-18 20 (all Morbius, nm) 2.50
19 (Colan) nm 1.00
21-23 25 all nm 1.25
26 (Werewolf by Night) nm 1.75
27 (Werewolf by Night) nm 1.75
28 (Ghost Rider) nm 2.00
30-36 38-48 all nm 1.25

Doctor Who
1-23 nm (Gibbons) 1.00

Doctor Zero 1-7 nm ... 1.25

Doom 2099 1 nm 1.75

The Draft ($3.50) nm .. 1.50

Dragon's Claws (UK)
9 nm 0.50

Dreadstar
vol 1: 18 21-23 25 26 nm 1.00
vol 2: 1 3 4 6 nm 1.00

Electric Undertow ($3.95)
1 nm (S-force Morituri) .. 1.75

Elektra Assassin (Epic)
1 (Sienkiewicz) nm 4.50

Elfquest (Epic) 2 nm ... 1.25
3 6 10 16 25 nm 1.00

Emperor Doom Gr Novel (Avengers) v 2.50

Epic Sampler rare 16pg pre-launch colour promo 10.00

Epic Illustrated 10 (Bolton, Moreno, Vess) 2.50
12 (Moench, Buscema, Muth, Bolton, Reese) 2.50
18 (Bolton, Moreno, Potts, Bryant) 2.50

Eternals
1985 series: 1 nm 1.25
2-11 nm 0.75
12 (giant, Simonson) nm . 1.25
1991 Special: vfn 1.00

The Everyman ($4.50; Epic)
1 (Allred & Mireault) nm . 2.00

Excalibur
Intro issue, bkshelf format, $3.25; Davis vfn 5.00
5 nm 3.50
15 16 17 (all Davis, nm) . 1.50
18 19 21 nm 1.25
Mojo Mayhem tr ppbk nm 3.00

Fafhrd & Gray Mouser ($4.50) 1-3 nm 2.00

Falcon (mini) 1-4 nm ... 1.25

Fallen Angels (mutant mini)
1 vfn 1.50
3-8 nm 1.00

Fantastic Four
110 vg, s/s 113 vg, s/s .. 1.50
116 vg (52pg, scarce) ... 3.50
117 fn 2.75
118 vg, wrinkled 1.00
119 vg, s/s 1.50
121 fg (Surfer, scarce) .. 1.00
124 vg, s/s 1.25
125 vfn- 3.25
126 (origin retold) fn-, s/s 3.00
127 fn+ 2.50
128 fn- (with poster insert) 2.75
129 130 132 133 vfn 3.25
134 135 136 138 139 fn- . 1.75
140-143 vfn 2.50
146 vfn, scarce 3.00
149 fn- light s/s 1.50
151-153 fn+ 2.00
154 vfn, corner tear 1.25
156 vfn, small s/s 1.50
157 vfn- (Surfer/Doom) .. 2.75
158-164 166-172 174 vfn+ 2.00
175 176 nm- 2.50
177-189 nm- 1.50
196 198 202 205 nm 2.00
209 210 212 (Byrne, nm) 3.00
215-217 221 (Byrne, nm) 2.50
222 224-228 (Sienkwz, nm) 1.50
229-231 nm 1.25
232-238 241 (Byrne, nm) 1.00
251-259 (Byrne) 1.00
260 261 (Surfer, nm) 2.00
262 (origin Galactus) nm 3.00
263-281 283 (Byrne nm) . 1.00
285 (S-Wars II, Byrne nm) 1.50
290 300 304-306 nm ... 0.75
308-310 314-318 ..... 0.60
319 (giant) 1.25
322-327 329 334-337 nm 0.60
340-346 nm 1.25
348 349 nm 1.50
353-356 ..... 1.00
Annuals: 6 (Kirby, ts, g+) 2.00
11 (Invaders, Buscema) vfn 3.00
12-15 nm 2.00
16 (Ditko) nm 1.50
17-19 (Byrne) nm 1.50
20 nm 2.00
21 22 nm 1.50

FF Giant Size
1 (titled Giant Size Superstars) fn+ 5.00
2-4 nm- 5.50

Fantastic Four v X-Men
1 2 vfn 1.25

FF Index 1 nm 10nm .. 0.75

Fear (1970s horror repr)
7 8 vfn 1.50

Foolkiller 1-10 nm- 1.50

Further Adventures of Indiana Jones 17 18 26-29 fn ... 0.50

Gargoyle 1-4 vfn+ 0.75

Ghost Rider
1 (1st edition) nm 13.50
2 nm 9.50
15 (1st edition) nm 6.00
15 (2nd edition) nm 2.50
27 (X-Men) nm 3.95
28 (bagged) nm 3.95

Ghost Rider & Cable Special
1 ($3.95) nm 3.00

GI Joe
2 (1st printing) nm 12.50
3 4 6 nm 4.00
7 nm 3.50
8 fg 0.50
10-20 nm 3.00

Groo (all publishers)
Pacific: 3 nm 9.95
5 vfn 7 vfn 6.00
8 nm 7.50
Epic issues: 10 nm 4.00
13 nm 19 nm 2.75
36 37 39-41 nm 1.75
43-47 49 52-53 nm 1.25

Groo, The Death of (Graphic Novel) 5.00

Guardians of the Galaxy
17-20 nm 3.00
(Cable origin across 4 issues)
25 nm (foil cvr) 2.00

Hawkeye (mini) 1 3 nm . 2.00

Hell's Angel (UK)
1 4-6 nm 2.00

Hercules (mini) 1-4 nm . 2.00
vol 2: 1-4 nm 1.75

Hollywood Superstars
1-4 nm 1.50

Howard the Duck
10 nm 1.25
mini: 1 nm (Kyle Baker) . 1.00

Human Fly 9 nm 0.50

Human Torch 1 4 nm .. 1.00

Iceman 1 2 4 nm 1.50

Impossible Man Special
1 nm 1.50

Incredible Hulk
113 fn- 4.95
116 vfn 6.00
117 vg 1.95
118 vfn- 4.50
119 vfn 120 vfn 5.00
122 fn (Fantastic Four) .. 4.50
123-125 vg 1.75
126 vfn 4.00
127 vg 128vg s/s 1.50
129 131 vfn 4.00
130 vg+ 1.50
132 vg 133-135g-v 1.00
136-139 vfn 3.25
140 v (Ellison) 2.50
142 nm 4.00
143 vg+ light s/s 1.50
144 nm 4.00
145 (giant, vfn) 5.00
146 vfn 3.50
147 148 g-v 1.25
149 vfn 151vfn 2.50
155 156 vfn 3.50
158 fn (Warlock cameo) . 2.50
161 (Death of Mimic, Beast) nm 4.50
162 (1st Wendigo) vg+ .. 2.00
163 nm 3.95
166 vg 1.50
168 170 nm- 3.50
171 vfn, wrinkled 2.00
172 (X-Men) nm 5.00
178 (Death of Warlock) vg+ 4.50
183 184 vfn 2.00
187 v 1.00
191 192-199 vfn+ 1.75
201-249 vfn-nm 1.50
251 fn (3-D Man) 252fn . 1.00
253-257 nm- 1.25
262 263 nm- 1.00
272 (Alpha Flight) nm .. 1.50
273 (Sasquatch) nm- ... 1.25
281 vfn 301vfn 0.75
314 (1st Byrne)nm 315nm 1.25
336-337 nm (vs X-Factor; McFarlane) 5.75
338 339 344 (McF; nm) . 4.75
345 (McF; scarce) nm ... 6.50
346 347 (McFarlane; nm) 4.25
348 349 nm 1.25
350 (Thing v Hulk) nm .. 2.50
351-353 355 356 nm 1.25
357 fn 0.75
Keown: 370 nm 3.50
373-375 nm 3.00
376 nm 5.00
382 383 387 392 nm 1.50
393 (giant) nm 3.00
Annuals: 5 6 vfn+ 1.50
8 vfn+ 2.00
9 10 12 13 15 nm 1.25

Infinity Gauntlet 1 nm . 3.50
2 nm 2.50
3 4 6 nm 1.95

Infinity War 1 nm 2.25
2 3 nm 1.50

Inhumans Special 1 nm 1.00

Interface (Epic) 1 nm .. 1.50

Iron Fist (Byrne) 6 nm .. 4.00
7 vfn 3.50
13 nm 3.95

Iron Man 7 vfn- 12.50
10 g-v 3.50
11 12 16 fn 5.25
17 vfn+ 9.00
18 vfn- small s/s 7.50
19 20 vfn 8.25
22 23 nm 9.00
24vg 25vg 3.25
26 27 vfn+ 6.00
28 30 fn+ 4.00
31fn 32fn 3.25
33 vfn 4.25
36 38 vg+ 2.50
44 fn+ small s/s wrinkled 1.50
47 (Smith; origin) fn+ ... 7.50
48 49 vfn- 3.00
50 vf s/s 1.50
52 fn 1.75
56 (Starlin) vfn 7.50
57-59 61-66 nm- 2.95
67 68 nm- 4.50
69 fn- 1.00
71-86 88-99 nm- 1.50
102-107 109-111 nm- ... 1.00
112 114 118 nm- (scarce) 2.50
125 128 171 172 174 nm- 1.50
175-184 187 188 nm- ... 1.00
189 199 202 206 nm- ... 1.25
221 222 nm- 1.00
223 224 nm- 1.75
225(1st Armor Wars) nm 3.50
226 230 231 nm 2.25
232 (Barry Smith) nm 2.75
233-242 nm 1.50
243 (Barry Smith art, Tony Stark shot) nm 2.00
288 (metallic cover) nm . 1.50
Annuals 3 4 vfn- 3.25
6 7 (WC Avengers) nm .. 2.00
8 (X-Factor) nm 3.00
9 10 nm 1.50

Journey into Mystery (Thor)
93g+ light s/s 8.00
99 g+ 6.00
103 g-v, biro 5.00
112 g (Hulk) 5.00
123 g light s/s 3.50

Jungle Action (1973)
3 v; wrinkled 1.00
4 fn+ 1.50
features Black Panther #7 on
7-10 fn+ 0.60
11-16 vfn 1.00
17-23 fn+ 0.60
24 (scarce) vfn 1.00

Ka-Zar 1970 series:
3 (new Angel strip) fn+ .. 2.50
3 torn spine 0.75
1974 series: 1 ..... 1.50
2-4 vfn 1.00
5 fg s/s 0.25
6-17 vfn 0.75
18 vfn (scarce) 1.25
1981 series: 1 nm 1.25
2-10 nm 1.00
11-33 nm 0.60
34 (final, scarce) nm 1.00

Kid Colt, Outlaw
116g-v 1.00
127g ..... .50

Kitty Pride & Wolverine (mini) 1 nm 5.50
2nm 3nm 3.50
4nm 5nm 4.25

Knights of Pendragon (UK)
volume 1:
6 (Bisley cvr) 1.50
16 nm 1.00
vol 2: 1-3 6 7 nm 1.00

Kull & the Barbarians (mag)
3g (Chaykin, Weiss) 1.50

Kull The Destroyer
1972: 11 (Ploog) fn 1.25
1982: 52 pgs: 1 vfn- 1.50
1983: 52 pgs: 1 nm 1.25
2 nm 1.00

Last American 1 2 vfn . 1.25

Light & Darkness War
4 nm 1.00

Legion of Night ($4.95)
2 nm 2.00

Longshot (Art Adams)
5 (Spider-man) nm- 8.50

Machine Man (Smith mini)
1-4 nm 1.50

Marshal Law (Epic)
1 vfn- 4.50
2-6 nm 4.00

Marvel Age
26 nm(Kaluta, Starstruck) 1.50

Marvel Comics Presents
1 nm 5.00
3-5 nm 2.00
6-10 nm 1.75
11-17 nm 1.00
18 (Byrne) nm 1.25
20-24 26 27 nm 1.00
30 nm 1.50
38 (Excalibur/Larsen) nm 2.00
39 41 nm 1.25
42 vg 0.50
42-47 nm 1.25
48-50 52 53 nm 2.00
54-56 58-61 nm 2.50
62 nm (Deathlok) 4.00
63 64 nm 2.25
70 71 nm 1.50
72 (1st Weapon X) nm .. 5.00
73 74 nm 2.50
76-84 nm 1.50
85 88 nm 1.00
90 nm 1.50
91-98 nm 1.25
100 nm 1.75
102 104-106 108 nm 1.00

Marvel Fanfare
1 (Spidey & Angel, Smith & Golden art) nm 7.00
3 (X-Men) nm 4.00
5 (Dr Strange) nm 1.75
6 (Spider-Man) nm 1.50
7 (Hulk, Daredevil) nm .. 1.50
8 (Sienkiewicz) nm 2.00
9-14 nm 1.25
15 (Thing by Smith) nm . 3.50
16 17 nm 1.00
19 nm 2.00
20 22-23 25 26-32 nm .. 1.00
33 (X-Men) nm 2.50
34-37 nm 1.00
38 (Moon Knight Sienc) nm 2.00
40 nm 1.25
41 (Dr Str; Gibbons) nm .. 1.50
44 53 nm 1.25

Marvel Feature (1976)
Red Sonja: 2 3 5 6 7 nm . 1.00

Marvel Fumetti Book
1 nm 1.95

Marvel Holiday Special
1 (X-Men, A Adams) nm . 2.00

Marvel Masterworks
Fantastic 4 (1-10) 18.95
X-Men (1-10) 18.95
Spider-Man (1-10) 15.00

Marvel Movie Premiere
"Land that Time Forgot" . 6.00

Marvel Premiere
21 23 (Iron Fist) nm 4.50
26 27 vfn 1.00
28 (Legion of Monsters) nm 7.00
29-31 nm 0.75
32-34 (Chaykin) nm 1.00
35 36 37 (3-D Man) nm .. 1.50
38-44 nm 0.60
45-46 (Perez) nm 1.75
47-48 (Ant-Man Byrne) nm 1.50
49 (Falcon) nm 0.75
50 (Alice Cooper) nm ... 4.50
51-56 nm 0.60

Marvel Preview (b&w mag)
1 (Nino) 4.00
3 (Blade) 2.00
4 (first Starlord) 3.00
5 6 (Sherlock Holmes) .. 2.00
7 (Satana) 2.00
8 (Legion of Monsters) .. 2.00
9 (Gladiator) 2.00
10 (Thor) 2.00
11 (Byrne Starlord) 2.50
12 (Haunt of Horror) 2.00
13 (UFOs) 2.00
14 15 (both Starlord) ... 2.00
16 (Masters of Terror) .. 2.00
17 (Blackmark Gil Kane) . 3.00
18 (Sienkiewicz Starlord) 3.00
19 (Kull) 2.00
20 (Chaykin & Perez) 3.00
21 (Moon Knight Sienkiewicz + Ditko's Shroud) 3.50
22 (Merlin: Buscema) 2.00
23 (Miller, Bissette) 3.00
24 (Paradax) 2.00

Marvel Saga
2 7 nm 0.60

Marvel Spotlight
14 (Son of Satan) nm ... 6.50
21 (Son of Satan) nm 4.00
26 (Scarecrow) nm 1.25
27 (Namor) nm 0.95
28 29 (1st solo Moon Knight issues) nm 3.50
30 (Warriors 3) nm 0.75
31 (Fury, Chaykin) fg 0.50
vol 2: 1-4 (Cap Marvel) nm 0.75
5-7 nm (Starlord) 0.60
9 (Capt Universe) nm ... 0.75
11 (rare) nm 1.25

Marvel Super-Heroes (60s)
16 (Phantom Eagle) vg .. 2.00

Marvel SuperHeroes Special 1 (Spring '90) nm 1.25
2 (Summer '90) nm 1.25
9 (Spring '92) nm 1.25

Marvel Super Special
41 (Howard the Duck, Kyle Baker art) 3.00

Marvel Tales
207nm (Powerman, Byrne) 0.75

Marvel Team-Up
20 vg (Panther) 2.50
21 vfn (Dr Strange) 3.25
22 fn+ 2.75
24 vg 0.75
25-29 nm 2.00
30 vg 1.00
32 vg- 0.60
32 vfn- (Son of Satan) ... 3.50
33-37 vfn 1.75
38 vfn (Beast) 3.25
39-45 vfn 1.75
46 nm (Deathlok) 5.50
47-52 nm 1.50
53 (Byrne's 1st X-Men) nm 7.25
54 (Byrne, Hulk) vfn 3.00
55 (Warlock; Byrne) nm . 6.50
56 57 (Byrne) nm 1.50
59-64 (Byrne) nm 2.50
66 (Capt Britain Byrne) nm 3.75
67 68 (Byrne) nm 2.50
69 (Byrne; Havok) nm .. 1.50
71-74 nm 1.00
75 79 (Byrne) nm 2.25
77 78 80 nm 1.00
81 nm (Satana) 2.50
82-85 87-90 92-99 nm .. 1.00
100 nm (giant, FF) 4.00
101 nm 1.00
102-111 (ND) nm 1.25
112-116 nm 1.00
119-136 138-148 nm ... 0.75
149 (New Mutants) nm .. 1.25
Annuals: 2-5 7 nm 1.50

Marvel Treasuries (13 x 10" squarebound editions)
4 (Conan, 100pg Smith repr) 3.00
5 (Hulk) 2.50
11 (FF Kirby reprints) ... 2.00
13 (Grab Bag) 2.00
23 (Conan 84pg, Buscema Smith Kane) 3.00

Marvel Two-in-One
12 (Iron Man) vfn 2.00
13 (Power Man) vfn 2.00
14 (Son of Satan) nm ... 3.50
15 (Morbius) nm 4.00
16-18 vfn- 1.75
19-22 24 26 28 30-41 nm 1.50
44-49 nm 1.50
50 (Byrne; old Thing) nm . 3.00
51 (Miller) fn+ 1.50
51 (Miller) nm 3.00
52 (Moon Knight) nm ... 1.50
53 55 (Byrne) nm 2.25
57-62 nm 1.25
63 (Warlock) nm 2.50
64-67 nm 1.25
68 (Angel) nm 1.50
69 (Guardians of the Galaxy) nm 2.50
71 nm 0.75
72 73(ND) 75(gt) nm ... 1.50
74 76-79 nm 1.00
80 (Ghost Rider) nm 2.50
81 82 nm 1.25
83 (Sasquatch) nm 1.25
84 (Alpha Flight) nm 1.25
85-90 92-94 96-99 nm .. 0.75
100 (giant, final) nm 1.25
Annuals: 1 nm 12.00
3 nm 5.00
4 nm 4.50
5 (Guardians) nm 9.00
6 (Dr Strange) nm 5.00
7 (X-Men) nm 5.00

Marvel Universe, Deluxe Edition 1 nm 3.00
4-9 11-17 19 nm 2.00

Master of Kung Fu
37 vfn 0.75
42-44 fn+ (all Gulacy) .. 1.00
57 112-117 nm 0.75

Meltdown: Havok - Wolverine
1 3 nm 2.50

Mephisto v X-Men 3nm 1.25

Micronauts 30 38 vfn .. 0.50
vol 2: 12-16 nm 0.50

Moon Knight
(Sienkiewicz art in #1-23)
1 nm 2.00
2 3 nm 1.25
4 5 nm 2.00
7 9 12 13 15-21 23 nm .. 1.25
26 27 29 nm 1.25
30 nm (Werewolf) 3.00
32 (Kevin Nowlan) nm .. 1.25
35 (giant, X-Men) nm ... 3.25
36 (scarce) nm 2.00
vol 2 (1985): 1 nm 1.75
2-4 6 nm 0.75
vol 3 (1989): 1 ..... 1.25

Moonshadow (Epic)
2 5 3-6 8 10 nm 4.25

Motormouth (UK)
1 4 5 6 7 nm 1.00

The 'Nam
1 (1st edition) nm 4.50
2 nm 3.00
4 nm 2.50
6-10 nm 1.50
11 nm 2.00
12-17 nm 1.00
18-30 nm 1.25
31 36-41 nm 1.00

New Mutants
2 nm 4.00
3 nm 2.50
4-6 nm 2.00
7 nm 2.50
8-13 nm 1.75
14-17 nm 2.00
18 (1st Sienkiewicz) nm . 3.00
19 20 nm 1.75
21 (giant) nm 3.00
23-32 35 40 50 nm 1.75
51-53 55-58 nm 1.00
59 60 (giant) nm 2.00
61-70 nm 1.00
71 72 73 vfn (Inferno) ... 1.50
75 (Byrne) nm 2.00
74 76-83 nm 1.00
99 nm 3.75
100 (1st edition) nm 5.75
100 (2nd edition) nm 2.75
Annuals: 1 nm 4.00
2 Davis Cap Britain nm .. 3.50
4 nm 2.50
5 nm (Liefeld) 6.00
7 nm 1.75

Nick Fury, Agent of SHIELD
vol 1: 8v 9v 11v 2.00
vol 2: 30 (Deathlok) nm .. 1.50
Bookshelf mini 3-6 nm .. 3.50

NEW YEAR COMICS CLEARANCE

Nomad 1 nm 1.50
Nth Man 1 nm 1.25
Omega the Unknown
2 5 vfn 1.00
The One 1-6 nm 1.00
Open Space (sf anth; $4.95)
2-4 nm 2.25
Outlaw Kid 13 fn+ 0.75
22 25-27 29 vfn 0.50
Power Line (Epic)
1-3 6 nm 1.50
Powerman (Luke Cage)
18 19 nm- (ND) 2.75
26 30 vfn+ 1.50
31 nm 2.00
32-35 nm 1.25
38 fn 39fn+ 40vfn 0.75
41 g 0.25
42 44-47 nm- 1.00
51-53 55 56 nm- 1.00
57 (X-Men) nm 2.50
58-65 nm 1.50
67-74 nm 0.75
75 (giant) nm 1.00
76-77 (Daredevil) nm ... 1.25
79-83 nm 0.75
84 (4th Sabretooth) nm .. 5.00
85-99 nm 0.75
100 (double size) nm ... 1.00
101-117 nm 0.75
122 123 (ND) nm 1.50
Power Pack 2 3 nm ... 1.50
4 5 7-11 nm 1.00
12 (X-Men) nm 1.25
13-15 17 18 nm 0.75
26 28 nm (ND) 1.25
30-32 34 nm 1.00
35 (X-Factor) nm 1.50
36 38 39 nm 1.00
40 (New Mutants) nm ... 1.25
41-45 nm 0.75
46 Punisher, Portacio nm 2.75
Punisher
4 5 nm 5.00
6-9 11 nm 4.00
12 13 nm (Portacio) 3.50
14-17 19 nm 3.25
21 22 24 nm 2.25
25 nm 2.50
26-30 33 35-39 50 nm .. 1.00
59-62 (Black Punisher) nm2.00
Annual 1 nm 6.00
4 nm 1.50
Punisher Summer Special
(US, 1991) 1 nm 2.00
2 nm 1.50
Punisher War Journal
1 nm (Jim Lee) 10.50
2 3 (Daredevil; Lee) nm . 8.00
4 nm (Jim Lee) 5.00
6 (Wolverine; Lee) nm .. 9.00
7 (Wolverine; Lee) nm .. 6.00
9-13 nm (Jim Lee) 2.25
14-15 (Spider-Man Lee)nm2.00
Punisher War Zone
1 nm 1.75
Quasar 1 2 nm 1.00
Red Sonja (1983) 2 nm . 1.00
Rocket Racoon 1-4 nm 1.00
Rom 1 vfn+ 1.50
2 3 vfn+ 0.50
5-7 9 vfn+ 1.50
10-16 vfn+ 1.00
17 18 (both X-Men) vfn+ . 2.00
19-22 vfn+ 0.50
23(ND) vfn+ 2.00
24-55 vfn+ 0.60
56-57 (Alpha Flight) vfn+ 1.00
58-64 vfn+ 0.50
66-71 73 vfn+ 0.50
Annuals: 1 2 vfn+ 1.00
3 (New Mutants) vfn+ ... 1.50
4vfn+ 1.00
Saint George 1-6 vfn+ . 1.00
Saga of Sub-Mariner
1-8 vfn+ 1.00
Savage Sword of Conan
4 (Adams Kane Corben)fn+3.50
72 vfn+ 0.75
Savage Sword of Conan Annual 1 (Conan 10 & 13 reprint) vfn 3.00
Savage Sword of Conan (UK) 15-22 24 26 61 vfn . 0.75
Savage Tales (b&w mag)
2nd series 2 (Severin, Morrow, Reese) vfn+ 2.00
Secret Wars
4 nm 1.50
11 nm 1.00
12 nm 1.25
Secret Wars II 1 vfn+ .. 1.25
2-8 nm 1.00
9 (giant) nm 1.50
Semper Fi 1-5 nm 0.75
Sensational She-Hulk
G/Novel (Byrne) fn+ 3.50
She-Hulk 1st series
3 4 7-10 nm 0.75
12-24 nm 0.60
2nd series 1 nm 1.50
2 3 4 6-8 nm 1.25
10-12 nm 1.00
Silver Surfer (current)
5-7 vfn+ 3.00
20 nm 1.75
50 nm 2.50
Annual 4 nm 2.00
Sisterhood of Steel (Epic)
1 2 4 5 6 7 vfn+ 1.00
Six from Sirius II (Gulacy)
1 3 4 nm 1.00
Sleeze Bros 1 vfn+ 1.00
Solarman
2 (Doctor Doom) nm 0.50
Speedball (Ditko) 1-5nm 0.60
Spellbound 2-6 nm 0.75
Spider-Man, The Amazing
30g-v 10.50
62 64 65 fn+ 6.00
71v 73v 74v 3.25
76-80v+ 3.95
81 vfn+ 8.00
82 84 85 88(all v+) 3.50
89 90 vfn+ 7.75
93 99 vfn+ 7.00
105 106 vfn+ 8.00
107v 3.50
108 110 vfn+ 7.00
109v 3.50
112 g-v 1.75
113 (Starlin) vfn+ 7.50
114g 1.00
116 vfn+ 6.50
117v 118v 120v 3.00
125-128 vfn+ 6.50
130 vfn+ 6.00
131 132 vfn+ 5.50
136 vfn+ (1st new Goblin) 10.00
137-141 143 vfn+ 5.00
146-149 151-160 vfn+ .. 5.00
163-173 nm 3.00
181-186 nm 2.75
187 (Starlin) nm 3.25
188 nm 2.75
189-190 (Byrne) nm 3.00
191-193 195-199 nm ... 2.50
203-205 nm 2.25
206(Byrne) nm 2.75
207-213 nm 2.00
219 nm 1.50
246-248 nm 2.00
249-251 nm (Hobgoblin) . 4.00
255 256 nm 2.25
311 (McFarlane) nm 4.50
312 (McFarlane) nm 6.50
313 (McFarlane) nm 5.00
316 (Venom, McF) vfn+ . 6.00
347 (Venom; Larsen) vfn+ 2.75
Annuals: 4v 7.50
5 vfn+ 9.00
10 11 nm 3.50
12 nm 2.50
16-19 nm 1.75
20 nm 3.00
22 nm 1.50
Spider-Man Giant-Size
2 (Shang Chi) vfn+ 3.00
3 (Doc Savage) vfn+ 3.00
Spectacular Spider-Man
7-11 13 15-16 nm 2.50
21 nm 2.00
22-23(Moon Knight) nm . 3.50
24-26 nm 2.00
30-32 nm 2.50
35-42 44-52 nm 2.50
53-57 nm 1.50
58(Byrne) nm 2.00
59 nm 1.25
60 (giant) nm 2.50
61-63 65-68 nm 1.25
69 70 (Cl & Dagger) nm . 2.00
71 73 74 nm 1.25
75 (gt) nm 2.00
76 78-80 nm 1.50
77 nm 2.25
81(Punisher) nm 5.00
84 86 nm 1.00
90 93 nm 1.50
94-96 (Cl & Dagger) nm . 1.25
97-99 nm 1.00
100(gt) nm 1.50
102 103 105-107 nm 1.25
109 114 nm 1.25
130 134 138 139 nm 1.00
150 151 nm 0.50
Annuals: 2-4 6 8 nm 2.00
Spider-Man
1 (green bagged) nm ... 4.00
6 & 7 (Ghost Rider) nm .. 2.75
8 9 11 12 (Wolverine) nm 1.50
Squadron Supreme
3-11 nm 1.00
12 nm 1.50
Stalkers (Epic)
2 3 nm 1.50
5-8 nm 1.25
Starstruck (Kaluta) 1 nm 2.00
2-6 nm 1.50
Graphic Novel nm 5.00
Star Wars Treasuries
1 2 (Chaykin) nm 1.00
Steelgrip Starkey
1 2 nm 1.00
Strange Tales
Brother Voodoo: 169 (small cvr pc mssng) vfn+ 1.00
170-173 vfn+ 1.50
Golem: 174 176 177 vfn+ 1.25
175 vfn+ 0.60
Strikeforce Morituri
2 3-6 8 9 11 12nm 0.75
14 17 18-20 nm 0.75
21-28 30 nm 1.00
Swords of Swashbucklers
2-9 nm 1.00
Sub-Mariner 2 nm ... 12.50
3-5 nm 7.00
6 7 nm 6.25
8g+ nm 3.00
9g-v nm 2.00
10v+ nm 4.50
11-13 nm 3.50
14 nm 6.50
15-20 nm 3.25
21 23-28 30 nm 3.25
29g nm 1.00
31-33 nm 3.00
36-38 nm 2.75
39g-v 40g-v nm 1.25
41 42 44-50 nm 2.75
43 (gt) nm 5.00
51-68 nm 2.00
69 (Spiderman) nm 2.75
70-72 nm 2.50
Sub-Mariner (1984 mini)
1-4 nm 1.25
Tales of Suspense
51 (Iron Man) v+ 8.50
Thing (Byrne: 1-7)
1 nm 2.75
2-7 nm 1.00
8-31 nm 0.50
Thor
182 184 vfn+ 3.75
185v 2.00
187 vfn+ 6.00
188 189 vfn+ 3.75
190-192 vfn+ 6.00
195-199 203 vfn+ 3.75
211v 1.00
212 213 vfn+ 2.25
214v 215v 1.25
219 vfn+ 2.25
227-230 vfn+ 1.75
231-233 235-240 nm ... 1.00
241 243-248 250-259 nm 0.75
260-271 nm 1.00
272-277 279-282 nm ... 0.75
283 nm 1.25
285-299 nm 0.75
300 (52pg) nm 4.00
301-303 nm 0.50
304 305 nm 1.25
307-335 nm 0.50
337(1st Simonson) nm .. 4.00
338 nm 2.50
339 nm 1.50
340-342 nm 1.25
343-354 nm 1.00
355 nm 0.50
357-360 362 367 nm 0.75
384-387 390 nm 0.50
391-393 396 nm 0.50
397 398 nm 0.50
400 nm 1.75
401-403 409 410 nm 0.50
413 414 nm 0.50
433 (1st new look) nm .. 1.00
Annuals: 5 vfn+ 2.25
7-13 nm 1.25
Tomorrow Knights (52pg)
1 nm 1.00
Time Spirits 1 nm 1.50
2-8 nm 1.00
Video Jack 4 5 6 nm ... 1.00
Void Indigo 1 2 nm 2.50
Web of Spider-Man
2 vfn+ 2.75
3-6 vfn+ 2.50
7-10 33 vfn+ 2.00
34 nm 1.50
38 nm 3.00
39 44-46 nm 1.50
47 nm 2.50
48 nm (origin H-Goblin 2) 1.00
50 nm 1.25
51 nm 1.00
Annual 4 nm 1.75
West Coast Avengers
2 nm 1.75
4 6-8 nm 1.50
10 11 nm 1.25
22 24-28 33-41 nm 0.50
42-45 53-56 (Byrne) nm . 1.00
Annuals: 1 nm 2.50
2 (Surfer) nm 2.00
3 nm 1.75
4 nm 1.50
What If 13 (Conan) nm . 2.00
16 (Shang-Chi) nm 1.50
42 (Fantastic 4) nm 1.25
2nd series: 2 nm 2.25
Special 1 (1988) nm 1.75
What The 3 nm 2.50
4-5 nm 1.25
Wild Cards (squarebound $4.50) 1-3 nm 2.50
Wolfpack 1-9 nm 0.75
Wolverine (current) 1 vfn+0.00
35 nm 1.50
43 nm (Sabretooth) 2.50
X-Factor 2 nm 2.50
3 4 nm 2.25
5 6 7 nm 2.75
8 9 nm 1.50
20-24 nm 1.00
26 nm 1.50
27 28 nm 1.00
36 37 nm 1.25
Annuals: 1 nm 2.00
3 4 nm 1.50
Uncanny X-Men
144-149 nm 2.00
150 (52pg) nm 2.50
151-157 nm 2.00
158 nm (Rogue) 3.50
159 (Sienkiewicz) nm ... 3.00
160 nm 2.00
161 nm (origin Magneto) . 2.50
162 nm 3.00
163 164 nm 3.25
165 nm (1st P Smith) ... 4.00
166 (52pg) nm 4.50
167 nm 3.50
168-170 nm 3.50
171 nm 4.50
172 nm (Wolv solo) 5.00
173 nm 5.00
174 nm 4.00
175 giant nm 5.00
176 nm 3.00
178-185 nm 2.75
186 giant nm 2.50
187 192 nm 1.75
193 giant nm 3.50
194-195 nm 1.75
230 nm 1.50
233 nm 2.00
239 nm 1.50
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252 255 nm 1.00
257 nm 6.00
259 262 nm 1.00
265 nm 1.00
267 nm (1st Jim Lee) ... 7.00
268 nm 8.00
Annuals: 3 (Perez) nm .. 5.50
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(giant, 2-part mini)
1 2 nm 2.75
X-Men & Micronauts (mini)
1-4 nm 2.00
X-Men vs Avengers
1 nm 1.75
2 3 4 nm 1.50
X-Men Classics
1 nm 4.00
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10 nm 2.75
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22-26 nm 1.25
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X-Terminators 1 nm ... 1.25
2 3 nm 1.00
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... trade paperbacks and perfectbound deluxe oneshots

All as new unless stated

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447 v (Aquaman) 0.75
giant size: 459 460 nm .. 2.00
JSA giants: 461 465 nm . 4.00
459 460 463 464 466 nm 3.00

Adventures of Superman
415 nm 0.75
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448 451-454 463 480 nm 0.50
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Special 1 nm 0.60

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1991 series: 1 3 4 7 nm . 0.60

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49 (Gil Kane) s/s otherwise nm 4.50
196 217 218 219 224 nm 0.75

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Special 1 nm 1.00

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3 nm 1.50
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NEW YEAR COMICS CLEARANCE

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INDEPENDENTS

All near mint unless stated

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Shooter's Defiant

FOLLOWING last issue's *Movers & Shakers* announcement concerning Jim Shooter's new company, the ex-editor in chief of both Marvel and Valiant has made further comments in the Christmas issue of the American trade paper, **The Comic Buyer's Guide**.

"I was told (at Valiant) I would have to sign what I considered a very oppressive 10-year contract and, when I refused, the board of Valiant basically fired me.

"I did try to negotiate in the matters that bothered me, but the people involved refused to change their position on a single point I raised."

Considering Shooter co-owned the company with Steve Massarsky, it is not surprising he is now going it alone -- without partners.

"I have nothing against Voyager Communications, I wish them nothing but well," he added. "I do feel I was shabbily treated by some *people* I trusted, but the only thing I care about is defending my reputation."

Asked about his future, he declared his current status as "unemployed" but that his main plan "is to go on and do it again - only better."

Beyond a 4-month contractual agreement with Voyager, he had been unable to discuss future plans, but now, through his Enlightened Entertainment company he is able to acquire backers for his new Defiant imprint.

"I think my best talent," he stated, "is to get good creative people and conduct the orchestra. Getting them to play in harmony and build something better than any individual person could do by himself."

He concluded, "There are lots of better creative people than me, but my career has been unusual. While most of the people trained by Mort Weisinger and Stan Lee have gone on to be artists or writers, no one else went as deeply as I did into management studies, editorial finance, movie business, licensing, etc. I developed a unique package of skills.

"I can conduct the orchestra."

Death's Head is hot! Yes?

AFTER the phenomenal success of the first mini series, **Death's Head II** has returned to overwhelming reaction from the fans. With mini series prices belittling the recession, we have recently heard that first prints of issue 1 sells for upwards of £15 and issue 2 for at least £7.50. It appears that Liam Sharp's art has the fans buying with the same frenzy that accompanied early Jim Lee **X-Men**.

Marvel UK editors scoffed at the idea that Liam may defect to work direct for Marvel America, but the fact that he is leaving **Death's Head II** with issue 5 and his only future Marvel UK work is on covers has added to the rumour that X-Men chief Bob Harras has an uncanny desire to work with him.

History repeating itself

WHEN the Uncanny X-Men were revamped in the 1970s it wasn't until an artist of the caliber of John Byrne replaced re-originator Dave Cockrum that the book began its climb to glory. Exactly the same number of originated issues have passed on sister book **X-Factor** and we now see an artist who may well take this book to the pinnacle of mutant sellers.

Joe Quesada's debut on **X-Factor 87** has amazed both critics and fans alike. So X-fans and dealers can at last start watching a lame mutant investment begin to bear fruit.

Present perfect

THE Peter David/George Perez new year Hulk series *Future Imperfect* has become the biggest selling non-Batman prestige format book since *Excalibur: Sword is Drawn*.

Shops from Kent to Cumbria reported selling out within hours of receiving the almost gimmick free 48 page comic and our Titan Distributors ITMite informs us that the it has now been reordered, a rare thing indeed for a book which unjustifiably costs £4.50.

£3.55 more than the regular **Hulk** comic is hard to justify, but at least this time the story and art are of a standard for which the prestige format was originally designed.

The spawn of Moore

IMAGE creator Jim Lee is reported to be disappointed over his new title **Stormwatch** being overshadowed by the Alan Moore scripted **Spawn 8**, which amassed advance orders in excess of 1.3 million.

The popularity (and profit) of the Moore-McFarlane team-up has led to Moore agreeing to work with McFarlane again, on a new 3-issue mini-series spinning off from Image's only reliable monthly title.

Launching in July, *The Violator* stars the nasty little character originally introduced in the pages of **Spawn** 1 to 3. We will also be introduced to *The Admonisher* Alan's own creation and very much a parody on The Punisher. While McFarlane draws this series he will be introducing a number of guest artists on **Spawn** (see **Comics International 25**) including George Perez and Jason Pearson.

Moonlighting

OVER the festivities it was interesting to note that the in-house editorial team of **Comics International** chose to spend their hard earned holidays not relaxing after hurriedly getting out the Christmas issue. Instead they were both preparing stories for a national newspaper.

The New Year's Eve **Guardian** featured stories on the **Daily**

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Mirror and the death of Superman as associate editor Sarah Bolesworth and editor Derek Skinn each covered aspects of the gullibility of the national press.

Cable update

WE WERE promised the secret of Marvel's Cable and Stryfe would be revealed in this summer's mini series and multi issue cross-overs, but one thing is becoming clear (if X-Men continuity can ever be) Stryfe is also Christopher Nathan Summers.

The connection between Cable and Stryfe however is another matter. One which Marvel is sure to stretch out for as long as the characters remain popular.

With **X-Men** #201 simmering in value, on the now dubious basis that Cable is Christopher Nathan Summers, check out **Guardians of the Galaxy** #17-20 and the story's in-joke title by then X-creators' buddy Jim Valentino.

Look for the page per issue glimpses of a character called "Crazy Nate", who eventually ends up sporting a glowing bionic left eye. Uncharacteristic of Marvel, these issues were hype free, but then, maybe the creators didn't tell the marketing people either.

American speculators are already going crazy about this believing it to be the (partial) origin of **Cable**.

Superman 75: $75

APPARENTLY the bagged **Superman 75** is selling for between $50 and $75 dollars in the USA. Over here the much-hyped item can be found in plentiful supply at marts priced between £5 and £10. Maybe some entrepreneur will think of selling them back to the Americans.

Comics Doublespeak

THERE'S a marketing device ever on the increase in the direct sale PR handbook which just has to be tautological.

Like saying a corpse is dead, or rain is wet, we're often being told that pre-sold comics have *sold out*. Dark Horse announced in a December 23 press release that "**Frank Miller's Sin City Collection** sells out". On December 30, they followed with "**Predator v Magnus 1** sells out".

In their mail-shots publisher Mike Richardson was quoted as saying about **Sin City**, "We are very excited about the sellout...". On **Predator v Magnus**, he said, "We are very excited about this project".

Mike Richardson must be easily excitable. The whole point of the direct market is that retailers order copies (through distributors), and publishers print according to the orders received, known as pre-solds.

But we still are expected to quote press releases which say that pre-sold comics have sold out. Pretty exciting, eh? Of course, publisher Mike could have seen the potential and over-ran the printing by a few thousand, which could have sold out, but that doesn't get mentioned.

"All 50,000 copies are gone", Dark Horse says of **Predator v Magnus**. "The initial print run of 20,000 units sold out in less than one month", they say of **Sin City**. So it should if they'd been ordered in advance. But it makes great

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publicity if anyone runs the stories, although without knowing how many copies were actually ordered (by risk-taking retailers) where was Mike's gamble and why the subsequent jubilation on his press office's part?

But then **X-Men 1** sold out as far as Marvel was concerned, yet there's hardly a retailer without a boxload gathering dust.

Charity begins...

The UNICEF charity comic *The Trial of Venom* which could only be obtained by donating $5 dollars to the American children's charity has created an incredible amount of interest among investors.

The comic which is similar in quality to **Spiderman: The Platinum Edition** was allocated one copy per address to avoid dealer build-ups. If extra money was sent for extra copies, UNICEF simply wrote back thanking the person for their *additional* donation.

This has led to many people in the know feeling that the £30 to £35 price tag being charged may well be a snip. Copies have apparently been changing hands in the USA since the closing date for over $100 already.

Solar 1 Magnus 2

AS MANY people are aware, the most valuable Valiant titles are the pre-*Unity* issues with all titles currently experiencing a silver age Marvel-style explosion in both readership and values.

Yet neither **Solar** 1 and 2 nor **Magnus Robot Fighter** 1 are particularly scarce, each having significantly higher print runs than subsequent issues.

Solar 1 and 2 were actually solicited for second editions, but excess copies in distributors' warehouses prevented such.

Magnus on the other hand had a small print run from issue 2 onwards because of poor initial feedback. Hence the unlikely situation where issue 1 is one of the cheapest of all pre-*unity* Valiants.

Stroman's Tribes

Although last issue reported that Art Thibert was to unveiling his new Image project **The Tribe**, it seems unlikely as Thibert has just signed an exclusive contract with Marvel.

Larry (**X-Factor**) Stroman is actually the man behind **The Tribe.** Chalk the error up to Christmas celebrations.

X-Update

O The artist on the **Deadpool** mini series has now been announced as Joe Maduriera.

O Scott Lobdell, Brandon Peterson and Dan Panosian will bring us a four issue mini about **Bishop** set in "today and tomorrow".

O The long-awaited **Longshot** second mini-series is on again, this time co-starring Dazzler. The series will be handled by the title's original creators as Ann Nocenti and Arthur Adams are said to be reworking the majority of the finished pages from the previously cancelled earlier sequel.

O Excalibur: True Friends will finally appear in 1993 with a new updated script by Scott Lobdell using Chris Claremont's original plot. Art is by Rick Leonardi with Terry Austin and Al Williamson.

O Home Team is the working title for a mini by Larry Hama and Mark Texeira featuring characters introduced in **Wolverine's** own monthly.

O **Archangel** by Bob Harras and Jason Pearson is also planned for late summer release.

O And finally, the most ambitious of the upcoming mini-series is the proposed **X-Men: Year Zero,** written by Fabian Nicieza and Tom DeFalco.

Venom crazy!

Issue 1 of Venom went into a second printing within 24 hours of the first print coming off the presses, perhaps showing how reluctant retailers are to over-order, even on "guaranteed" sellers.

Copies were flying out of shops all across the USA and Britain with London's Forbidden Planet reporting it had sold out within 2 hours of the book reaching the shelves.

With its one million print run it hardly merits becoming *hot* in value, but in demand it has been a godsend to many pressured retailer.

Back from limbo

MORE news on the return of the Man of Steel: Latest industry gossip has it that in celebration of Superman's return (such a surprise, too), **Adventures of Superman 500** will have a gimmick cover.

But a new gimmick, this. A translucent outer cover peels back to reveal the Jerry ordway painting of the new Man of Steel. Expect a high price tag, they can't get away with a PR blessing like this *that* often!

Contrasting with the somewhat drawn-out Death and Funeral plot-line, the revival story "The Reign of Superman" will begin with the April 14 shipping **Adventures of Superman 500**, and continue two weeks later as all other Superman titles are released simultaneously.

Pick Hits

A few first appearance facts from our Merseyside ITMite:

● Hot artist Joe Quesada's first ever comic work appeared in DC's **Spelljammer 8.** He also pencilled issues 9 to 13.

● Timber Wolf, originally Lone Wolf, made his first appearance in the 1964 **Adventure Comics 327.** Already an expensive one with the strong Legion following driving up prices, but soon to cost even more.

● Spider-Man arch foe The Hobgoblin first appeared in **Machine Man 19.** Not the Ned Leeds character, but the current demonic Hobgoblin, who was then known as Jack O'Lantern. Already the guide value has jumped from $3 to $15 in a very short time-span.

● Gambit's first appearance is now acknowledged by **Overstreet** and **Wizard as X-Men Annual 14.** It looks like it's time to unload your stacks of **X-Men 266.** ●

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to Mr Rawle Austin of Streatham

His prize is a free holiday in NEW YORK CITY, plus a guided tour of the MARVEL COMICS HEADQUARTERS in Manhattan, NYC.

Rawle (seen here on the left) receiving his prize from Peter, and a pat on the back from Spidey!
(Hey, just a minute - isn't Spidey's name Peter??!!??)

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All he did was sign up with Acme Comics as a standing order customer. For details of how to join, contact the shop. Previous free prizes have been **New Mutants #87** and **Amazing Spider-Man #1** (Approx. value £600.00)

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LETTERS

COMICS INTERNATIONAL's letters column is your forum for opinion on publications, writers, artists, prices, market trends and anything else connected with the industry. As such, opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher. Letters intended for publication will only be edited as a grammatical or space consideration. Please to certain to include your name and full address, anonymous letters will not be published.

Comics International Letters, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

Since we first covered the problem, we had a steady flow of readers' letters expressing concern over the non-receipt of their ***Harbinger 0*** *premium copies. A month ago, it stopped. Did they eventually arrive? Do people only write when they have a problem? Input from involved parties would be appreciated.*

Derek G. Skinn / Editor

Adrian Couch, St Albans.

My comic collection has always been carefully stored, bagged, boarded and boxed as I have always thought of this as the correct way to care for them.

But over the last year I have read various pieces reporting that the comic bags could destroy rather than care for my collection.

Should I change my bags every two to three years, or just throw them away and save the cost in future?

Boxes and bags do protect your collection, from dust, dampness and any domestic accidents. For that alone, it is worth buying peripherals. Thankfully our climate is not too sunny, too humid or too dry, so you shouldn't be overly concerned about short term deterioration.

Perhaps a feature on this subject is called for. (DGS)

Rachel Davies, Booth Road, Nottingham

I've read virtually every *Comment* printed in **Comics International**, and what it achieves more than anything else is diversity. Yet no one has bothered to write saying how the *Comment* pages actually are the reason for the resurgence of communication about our hobby.

They are as important to comics fandom as comics themselves and deserve to be acknowledged.

It isn't that no one is complimentary about any of the columns in this magazine. We receive lots of very pleasing praise, but such doesn't necessarily make for interesting public reading. Your letters are appreciated, but the more thought-provoking topics tend to receive preferential treatment.

I've edited letters columns for a long time, for everything -from Doctor Who to Fantasy Advertiser, and I believe that reader reaction in public is vital. But comics rarely print negative feedback, magazines like ours should give a more balanced view. But that's down to you and what you say. (DGS)

Andrew Harvey, Leytonstone, London E11

I was amazed to see the strength of negative reaction in the trade to the proposed US takeover of Titan Distributors (*ComicWatch*, issue 27). It started me thinking about how it could affect us all.

Titan has one warehouse, in London, on which to base its trade. But the American would-be parent has at least 24 scattered around the US and Canada. If they get Titan, it will become "warehouse #25. While it will play its part, it won't as significant to them as it is to Titan.

Britain isn't the 51st state of America and I gather Titan has different and preferable terms to the American distributors. But if it becomes US-owned, why should Warehouse #25 have its own unique accounts system? Or for how long before it falls into line with the other 24?

Or if there are too many problems, too admin heavy, too much hassle with Customs, local laws, tax, etc, the Americans could close it down and supply direct from the States having effectively removed "local" competition.

Hopefully this isn't American paranoia I'm expressing, but the unique identity of British product and producers does get easily swamped by the US formulae, often to our detriment.

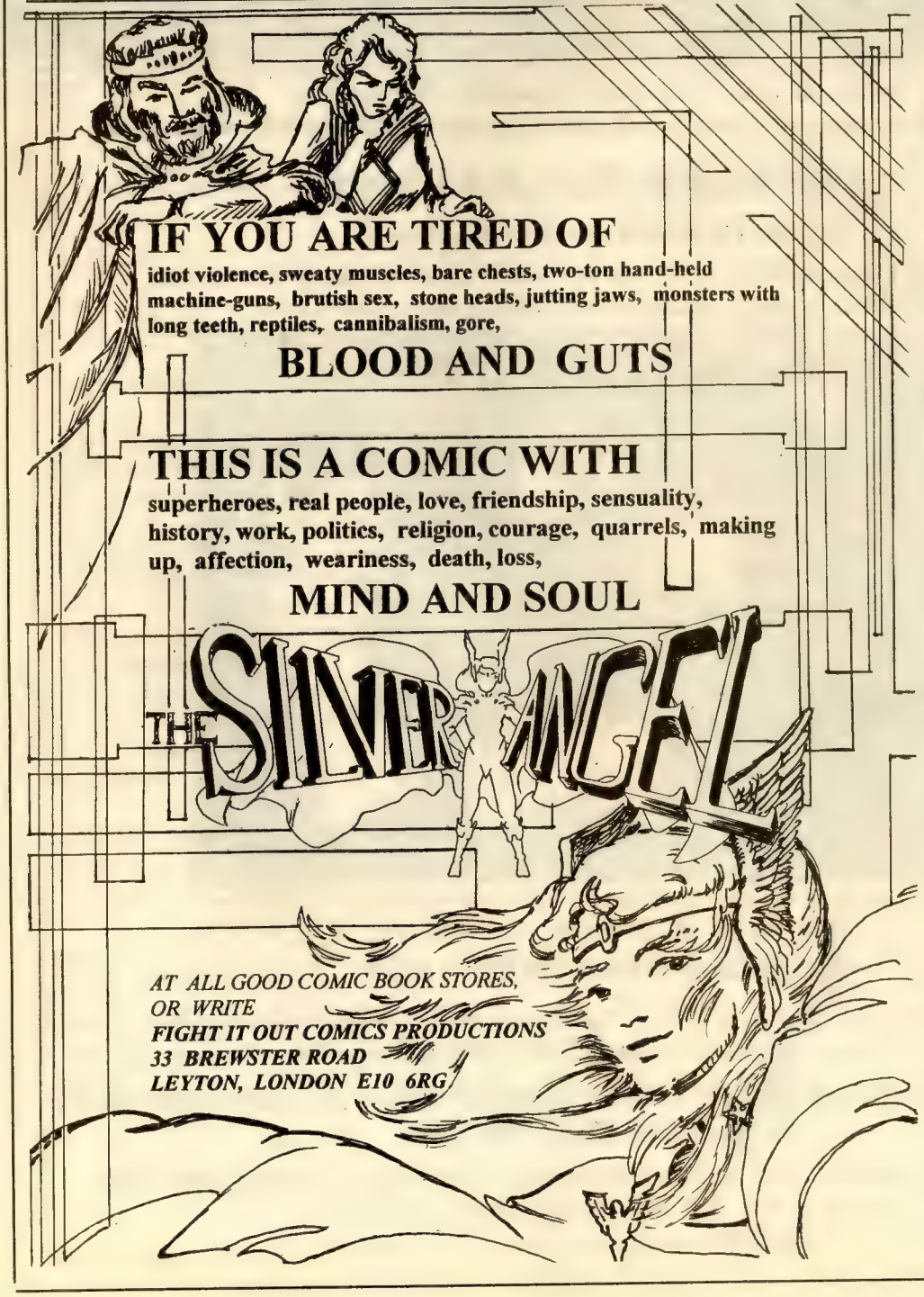
For example, have you yet seen any Marvel UK product which actually aims at Britain? I've heard that Marvel US superhero titles aren't selling (without gimmick covers), so why does the UK branch slavishly and amateurishly copy them? **Death's Head**, their biggest success, was unique. But it's easier to replicate than to innovate, I guess.

Talking of Marvel, it seems to be caught in a trap now. With over 100 high-profile titles, it has over 50% of the market, yet most of them are selling (I'm told) below the usual cancellation line. So what can they do? If they cancel say half of their titles, the rest will have to carry twice the overhead and become less profitable, with some of them having to be cancelled. A downward spiral.

So they continue publishing at an (on paper) loss, hoping the next **Cable-Venom**-whatever will make up for it.

While titles may not all be profitable, they still contribute to the company's majority market share. If the so-so's went, so would Marvel's position and the revenue lost wouldn't necessarily go to their other titles. Unless they started advertising their titles within their own comics to help retailers sell them. That might help.

1993 should prove to be an interesting year for comics. Thank heavens you're here to cover it.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It's 1993 but the Recession Sale is still on - a massive range of Marvel and DC back issues, all with 20% off, including X-titles, Batman, Spider-Man, Warren, Heavy Metal, independents, etc. SAE to Mike Cruden, 18 Backbower Lane, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 5NS. Tel: 061-366 8226.

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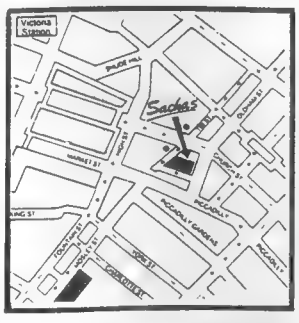

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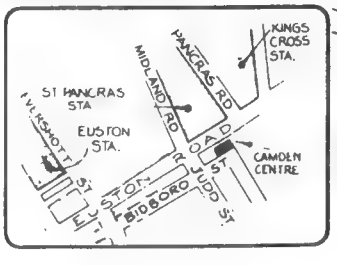

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Wanted: Any **GI Joe**, **Star Wars**, Marvel and DC action figures plus accessories. Would be willing to swap for comics, or reasonable prices paid. Contact Stephen Miller, Easter Moniack Farm, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7PP.

Wanted: most issues of **Infinity Gauntlet/War**; all early **Guardians of the Galaxy**, Ghost Rider/new series; **Time Machine** (Eternity) 3; nearly all **Transformers** issues. Contact Marshall Rees, 8 Heol-y-Parc, Gilfach Goch, Mid-Glamorgan CF39 8RH.

Wanted: **Tom Puss Comics** (Birn Brothers) - will pay £150; **Panda Comics** (Birn Brothers) £100; **Tom Puss in Rhymeland** - £100; **Jack and Jill** all-colour gift books (Annette Mills) £40. Contact: Piet Koudenburg, Cortenhoeve 14, 2411 JM Bodegraven, NL The Netherlands.

EXCHANGE

Wanted: **Aliens vol. 2** 1-4; **Aliens 3** movie adaptation 1-3 and **Aliens (Dark Horse Presents)** prestige format, part Bisley, coloured. *Offered:* various **Beano**, **Dandy**, **Topper** and **Beezer** 1980-1985; **Captain Britain** 1 (coverless) 2vg-fn; **Captain America** 401; **Hoot** (85). Send wants lists to: Aubrey Hall, Rockdell, Cootehill, County Cavan, Ireland.

Please note that all exchange and wanted advertisements must be for comics, trading cards or related product. No music, games, books or videos, we don't have the space!

Wanted: **Green Hornet** vol 1:1 (1st) 2 4, vol. 2: 2-8 11+; **Tales of Green Hornet** vol 2: 3+ and spin offs; **Legion** (3rd series) 37 38. *Offered:* **Batman** 404-407; **Punisher** 1; **Excalibur Special**; **X-men** 1a,b,c 281; **X-Factor** 71; **X-Force** 1 (Cable, Team); **Flash** 1-3 5 6 annual 1; **Hellblazer** 1. Contact Mark Littlewood, Balliol College, Oxford OX 3BJ.

I have for exchange quite a large amount of Golden and Silver Age DCs, Fawcetts, Atlas, Tarzans and miscellaneous type material. If you have any similar material that you are looking to exchange, I will give good exchange value. If you send a list of your comics, I will send you a list of mine. Contact David Shack, 89 Cobbold Road, Leytonstone, London E11 3NS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No More Heroes issue three. The breaking of a golden age hero and the destruction of a super-team. No More Heroes by Davies, Collins and Morris; Terra Force by Brooks and Dawson. Send £1 and an SAE to: What's Next Fanzines, 44 Martin Ave., Hampton, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6NP.

Extremes, a forthcoming anthology comic is still looking for writers and artists to work on super-hero, fantasy and SF strips. Join our growing team by sending copies of art and scripts to: 4, Crane Park Road, Whitton, Middx. TW2 6DF.

Writer willing to script or submit scripts for any comic, Marvel, DC and Image influenced. Contact Chris Bunting, Goss Hall, Ashover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

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Drugs. addiction and Golden Age super-heroes, it all adds up to **No More Heroes** issue two by Davies, Collins and Morris. Plus Iain Brook's **Terra-Force**. And in just one issue! And only £1 plus a large SAE. From What's Next Comics, 44 Martin Avenue, Hampton, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6NP.

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Mainstream style amateur artists will submit work to fanzines. Contact Leonard Noel-White, 87 Listria Park, Stoke Newington, London N10 5SP.

Oy, Mister!! Comics numbers 1 & 2 are available now! Issue 1 costs only £1 and issue 2 costs only 75p, including postage. Make cheque/POs payable to: B. Patson at 92 Himley Green, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 7QA. These comics are for mature readers only! (No adults!)

Scrawl! The Dyslexia of Post Literacy, a comic collection of monologues and duologues was incorrectly listed in last month's **Comics International** review. Send £1.50 to G. Burrows, 79 Springfield Road, Brighton BN1 6DH.

Attention X-fans: all the latest news, info and gossip, plus features, checklists and art previews of Marvel's mutant titles in a new magazine, **Mutant Media**. Numbered limited edition #1 out February. £1.50 inc. p&p. Contact Phil Hall, 3 Ashfield Road, Wellingborough NN8 3JG.

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EVENTS GUIDE

An at-a-glance guide, this listing gives the dates and locations of all forthcoming events advertised this issue. A free service for advertisers, the bracketed number after each entry denotes the page this issue where the advertisement with full details appears.

JANUARY 1993

23/1 **BRISTOL:** Comic and Science Fiction Mart, St John's Hall, Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol. (p 27)
23/1 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street. (p 29)
30/1 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Hotel Arcade, Ladywell Walk (p 23)
30/1 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Polytechnic, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way (p 29)
30/1 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 61)
31/1 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street (p 29)

FEBRUARY

6/2 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Midland Hotel, New Street (p 29)
7/2 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 51)
13/2 **STOKE-ON-TRENT:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Harding Street (p 29)
20/2 **GLOUCESTER:** Comic Mart, Gloucester Leisure Centre, Bruton Way (p 23)
20/2 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Polytechnic, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 29)
21/2 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 15)
27/2 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Polytechnic, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way (p 29)
27/2 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Bluecoat Chambers Concert Hall, School Lane, Liverpool (p 50)
28/2 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street (p 44)

MARCH

13/3 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Hotel Arcade, Ladywell Walk (p 23)
13/3 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 61)
13/3 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gelding Street (p 29)
14/3 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace with Comicbook Auction #2, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 68)
20/3 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street. (p 29)
27/3 **BRISTOL:** Comic and Science Fiction Mart, St John's Hall, Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol (p 27)
27/3 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 29)

APRIL

3/4 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Midland Hotel, New Street (p 29)
4/4 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (p 51)
17/4 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Leeds Polytechnic, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way (p 29)
18/4 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street (p 29)
24/4 **GLASGOW:** 2-day Comic Art Convention begins, City Hall, Glasgow (p 9)
24/4 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 61)
24/4 **MANCHESTER:** Comic & Card Mart Special, Sachas Hotel, Tibb Street, Piccadilly, Manchester (p 67)

MAY

1/5 **GLOUCESTER:** Comic Mart, Gloucester Leisure Centre, Bruton Way (p 23)
1/5 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Polytechnic, Howard Street, Sheffield (p 29)
2/5 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 (p 15)
2/5 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street (p 44)
8/5 **STOKE-ON-TRENT:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Harding Street (p 29)
22/5 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart with special guest Bryan Talbot, Hotel Arcade, Ladywell Walk (p 23)
23/5 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1 (p 68)
29/5 **BRISTOL:** Comic and Science Fiction Mart, St John's Hall, Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol (p 27)
29/5 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street. (p 29)

JUNE

5/6 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Midland Hotel, New Street (p 29)
12/6 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gelding Street (p 29)
19/6 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street (p 29)
26/6 **LONDON:** Comic Fair, Central Hall, Parker Street, Westminster (p 61)
27/6 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart, Forte Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street (p 44)

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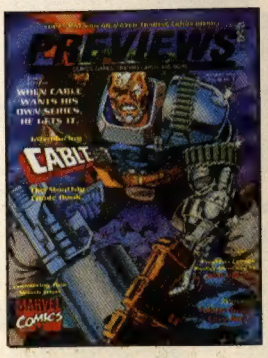

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